

Pensions ombudsman overwhelmed by complaints

By LIZ DOLAN

COMPLAINTS about the way in which trustees have handled company pensions schemes have swamped the office of Michael Platt, the Pensions Ombudsman, during his first year of operation. In his annual report he admits that his office had initially been so severely understaffed that complainants were having to wait for up to 12 months for their problems to be dealt with.

"Our performance falls sadly below citizen's charter standards," he said. He has recently increased his staff from 12 to 14 and recruited a temporary consultant to help clear the backlog.

Of the 2,186 complaints received by his office in its first year, he had reached a decision on 47. Most of the remainder were either rejected as outside his remit, or were passed to the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service. But 69 complaints had to be carried over to the next year and some were still under investigation.

Mr Platt said he had received complaints from members of all the Maxwell pension funds, but had passed them on to other organisations. "It seems pointless to deal with them here when there are already so many other investigations going on. I have told them their interests are already being fully looked after by others. I am frankly not equipped to carry out a large investigation and, in any case, I can direct until I am blue in the face, but I cannot get back funds that are no longer there," he said.

The effects of recession had



On the march: Rene Dolan, 73, was among retired people who went to Whitehall yesterday to support the British Pensioners' Charter

further complicated what was already a very difficult first year, he said. "The problems facing some companies as a result of the recession have occasionally placed a strain on the financial relationship between themselves and their pension funds. In some instances this has resulted in

underfunding of the scheme or in self-investment in a parent company already under pressure."

Mr Platt said his job was to investigate individual complaints about the past actions of trustees or managers or employers. "I am not able to take an active role as a

watchdog for the members of a particular pension scheme," he said.

When companies went out of business, pension funds were often well down the list of problems considered by liquidators. "When the liquidator is appointed, he frequently finds a confused muddle with

contributions to the scheme unpaid and records fragmentary or missing. Some liquidators give the pension scheme low priority," said Mr Platt. The appointment of an independent trustee went a long way towards protecting members' interests in this situation. He added: "The first need is

for information — regularly and up-to-date. The time taken to wind up a scheme is frequently very long, and members need to be warned about this.

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Sex muddies Irish economic debate

By LOUISE HIDALGO

AS Ireland's government announced a £100 million fund to try to tackle the republic's deepening unemployment, the country's economic debate has once again been muddled by its sexual one.

Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, this week faced one of the toughest hurdles of his six months in office after another 1,000 job losses were announced, pushing unemployment in the republic to more than 20 per cent — the highest in the European Community.

The issue has also prompted the latest bout in Ireland's

family planning conundrum. Mr Reynolds, speaking after a prolonged cabinet meeting to review unemployment, said the new fund would be used to support small and first-time businesses. He also announced 6,000 new training and community-employment places, the first in a series of job creation measures.

Mr Reynolds has been under increasing pressure from opposition and church leaders to resolve the job shortage, which one senior churchman described as the "Irish scourge". The birth control debate was touched off again earlier this week when a senior figure in Ireland's Prot-

estant church publicly linked the republic's unemployment woes to the rapid rise in its population in past years.

The remark, from the Very Rev John Paterson, dean of Dublin's Christ Church Cathedral, was immediately seized on by many as implicit criticism of the Roman Catholic stance on birth control.

The dean, speaking in the same church where Cardinal Cahal Daly, head of the Roman Catholic church in Ireland, had the previous day urged the government to take emergency action to combat unemployment, was careful not to blame the Roman Catholic church directly.

Instead, he quoted the Archbishop of Canterbury's comments earlier this year as he prepared to meet the Pope — that the world's population explosion reflected Roman Catholic teaching on birth control. "Many would say it was fair comment," the Rev Paterson said. "And it might be considered fair comment in this country too."

The dean was forced to defend himself in the *Irish Times*, saying his remarks had not been intended to cause offense or to criticise Roman Catholic doctrine. "It is not for me to tell the Catholic church what to do about their teaching," he told the newspaper.

Pound wins respite as markets steady

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE pound won a breathing space yesterday, edging upwards out of the danger area to almost audible sighs of relief in Whitehall. Sterling rose more than half a penny to nearly 2.80 German marks — more than two pennings above its minimum permitted level in the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The government will count no chickens until after the September 20 French referendum on Maastricht and ministers are resigned to

continued pockets of turbulence at least until then. But Tory MPs were hopeful that the threat of an interest rate increase had lifted for the moment and the stock market rose on the back of a surge in Japanese prices.

There was quiet satisfaction in the Treasury that Wednesday's two-pronged strategy of the Chancellor's "no devaluation" statement pledging Britain's continued commitment to the ERM, plus heavy intervention by the Bank of England, had steadied the markets.

As John Smith and his senior colleagues came under attack for not making more of the government's economic difficulties, it was Labour's turn to have its divisions displayed. In an article in the *Evening Standard*, former Cabinet minister and Euro-skeptic Peter Shore demanded to know what Mr Smith, shadow chancellor Gordon Brown and shadow trade and industry secretary Robin Cook were "up to".

He wrote: "They should be using this crisis to show that Labour, not the Tories, is the party to trust with the economy," and added that it was "simply nonsense" for the leadership to refuse to question the exchange rate while at the same time calling for lower interest rates.

The Treasury was pleased yesterday by remarks by Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, suggesting that there would be a need for lower German interest rates in the medium term and by comments from Michel Sapin, his French opposite number, that there would be no realignment of currencies. But figures showing Germany's inflation rate rising in August after falling for four months dampened hopes of a rapid slowdown in retail prices and an early Bundesbank decision to lower interest rates.

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Trawler owner claims Whitehall cover-up

The owner of the trawler *Pescado*, which sank off the Cornish coast with the loss of six lives, showed a video film of the wreck yesterday to support his claim that the vessel was sunk by a submarine (Tony Dawe writes). Alan Ayres accused the defence ministry of covering up the tragedy that happened 18 months ago. He pointed to 20ft black streaks on the side of the trawler as the video, taken by the transport department's marine investigators, was shown in Falmouth.

An unidentified voice was heard to say: "You can tell that is a submarine bow." Another voice referred to "black stuff" on the hull and said it was like the "rubber cladding of a submarine". Marine investigators concluded in March that the vessel's dredging gear probably snagged on an underwater obstruction, causing it to capsize.

An investigation by *The Times* earlier this year disclosed that the *Pescado* set sail without a safety certificate. A defence ministry spokesman said last night that no British or allied submarine could have caused the accident.

Sea arrest was 'piracy'

A judge in Gibraltar will rule next week on whether Roderick Newall, 27, who was arrested at sea by the Royal Navy, will go free or face extradition proceedings on charges of murdering his parents in Jersey. Chris Finch, his lawyer, yesterday applied for the case to be dismissed on the grounds that the arrest warrants were not valid and his client's arrest by Royal Navy ships at sea was illegal. He said that his arrest at gunpoint in international waters, being tricked aboard the *Argonaut* and returned to Gibraltar by force was "the closest to modern piracy as one can imagine". Mr Newall was remanded in custody for a week.

Live on Classic FM

Orchestral performances will be broadcast live on Classic FM at least twice a week between 8pm and 10pm soon after the new commercial station begins broadcasting nationwide on September 7 (Melinda Wittstock writes). The station, which also plans to back young talent by broadcasting live performances each day by young soloists and ensembles from its studios in Camden Town, northwest London, said yesterday that it had lined up the London Symphony Orchestra for 18 live recitals this autumn.

Proetta drug charge

Carmen Proetta, a witness at the 1988 inquest into the shooting to death in Gibraltar of three IRA members, appeared in a Gibraltar court with her husband Maxi yesterday charged with possession of the drug LSD (Dominic Searle writes). The police prosecutor requested a two-week adjournment to prepare the case and "take further advice on the matter". Judge Felix Pizzarello adjourned the hearing to September 10 and Mr and Mrs Proetta were granted bail.

James Gilbey in crash



James Gilbey, the man alleged to be talking to the Princess of Wales in a telephone call recorded by an eavesdropper, was involved in a head-on car crash with a photographer from *The Sun* yesterday. Mr Gilbey, 36, was not injured. Andrew Styczynski, the photographer, was treated for shock, bruises and cuts. A witness said that both cars appeared to be write-offs. No one else was involved in the accident, which happened near Ketteringham Hall, Norfolk, where Mr Gilbey works as a marketing consultant for the Lotus car company. *The Sun* said that Mr Styczynski, 31, had been waiting outside the hall with other journalists since Monday.

£48,000 for Lennon song

John Lennon's draft for his 1967 song *A Day in the Life* sold for £48,400 at Sotheby's yesterday, while Paul McCartney's draft for *She's Leaving Home* fetched £45,100. Both were acquired by anonymous telephone bidders. Scrawled in a black felt-tip pen that evidently gave out, giving way to blue ballpoint, the Lennon document looks more like a doodle than a masterpiece of twentieth-century popular music. Paul McCartney's efforts came in a far more organised package, including his conceptual sketch for the cover of the Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album on the reverse.

Tidy bids for Punch

Bill Tidy, the cartoonist who drew for *Punch* for three decades, has submitted a bid to resuscitate the weekly magazine, which closed in April with losses of £1 million a year. He and John Cocker, a Canadian doctor who publishes *The Punch Digest For Canadian Doctors*, a bi-monthly subscription spin-off from *Punch*, want to relaunch the magazine as a monthly. United Newspapers, which owns the *Punch* title and now exploits the magazine's 150-year-old archive to supply cartoons and pictures to a wide range of customers, is considering the offer. *Punch* suffered a collapse in circulation from a 1940s peak of 175,000 to just 33,000 last year.

Dinosaur 'had eight hearts'

By ALISON ROBERTS

SCIENTISTS believe that a species of long-necked dinosaur, alive between 200 and 150 million years ago, had eight hearts. They claim that the *Barosaurus* had one main and one secondary heart in its chest and three pairs of hearts in its neck.

A reconstructed skeleton shows that the creature would have needed a huge heart to achieve adequate pressure to pump blood the 12 metres from its thorax up to its head. Previous research has estimated the heart size of a large sauropod dinosaur such as the *Barosaurus* at 1.6 tonnes, or eight times that of a whale of similar size. The larger the heart the slower the heart beat: the whale heart contracts at 30-40 beats a minute compared with the hummingbird's 300 or more.

Scientists at Columbia University in New York say that one heart would have beaten so slowly that the column of blood pumped up the neck of the *Barosaurus* would have fallen back to the heart in between beats. Instead, in tomorrow's *Lancet*, they suggest that the herbivore had multiple pumps in series so that the primary heart would have had to generate only sufficient pressure to drive blood to the next pump, and so on up the neck.

The two main hearts would have been located one above the other in the chest, while the three pairs of satellites would have been at 2.44 metre intervals in the neck. With eight hearts and high pressure levels the creature would have been predisposed to heart trouble, the scientists say.

"*Barosaurus* would therefore have been subject to early coronary artery disease as well as stroke. Unfortunately, soft tissues are not preserved as fossils, so we can only speculate on, and not reconstruct, the cardiovascular dangers facing *Barosaurus*."

The animals would also have had difficulty stooping down, giraffe-like, to pick up food from the ground, the scientists say. The heart rate would have slowed on bending and increased suddenly when it raised its head.

An older *Barosaurus*, whose physiological responses might have been weaker, would have fainted from dizzying low blood pressure. On falling to the ground it would have quickly regained consciousness as the pressure differential disappeared.

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British Association meeting: economics, brain waves, power stations, bogs, mice and tallness

Economist sees failure blight his profession

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

ECONOMICS is in crisis, its pretensions to explain the world revealed as empty and ineffective. Far from improving in predictive power as time advances, it seems to be getting worse, according to an economist's forecast.

Professor Paul Ormerod, of the Henley Centre for Forecasting, told the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Southampton yesterday that as an academic discipline, economics was characterised by "elaborate theories based on rational behaviour which are rarely if ever tested, and by a conspicuous inability to predict the world."

Students studying economics acquired intellectual skill, but so did those who studied the extinct language of Gothic, he said. "The difference is that scholars of Gothic do not carry such substantial weight in the everyday world."

In a damning and witty

attack on the failures of his profession, Professor Ormerod compared theoretical economists to the virtuoso in Shadwell's restoration comedy. The virtuoso, an eminent theorist about almost anything which moves, is held to be the greatest swimmer in the world. "But he never actually swims in water," the professor said. "He simply lies on a table and follows to perfection the movements of a frog which is dangled on a string in front of him. At least the virtuoso, by observing the frog, has the merit of allowing empirical reality to impinge on him to a modest extent."

Professor Ormerod said that he had spent most of the 1970s at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, working on models to explain and predict the economy. Such models, he had now concluded, had little value. "The forecasting record of the models, never brilliant, has deteriorated since the mid-1980s. In virtually every Western country, serious errors have been made in forecasts. The example of the UK in the past few years is clear."

Economic theory over the past 30 years was "littered with new concepts which have given very little insight into how economies actually work". Economic growth theory, fashionable from the late 1950s to the early 1970s, had left "virtually nothing of value to a policy-maker who wishes to understand how growth can be stimulated in the long term". The concept of "rational expectations", prominent in the past decade, had been used to support the view that government intervention in the economy was at best pointless and at worst damaging, but it was unproven.

As a result of these failures, he said, economics was in disarray. Its achievements were similar to those of pre-Newtonian physics, "yet many of its practitioners act as if the Newtonian revolution in economics had already occurred, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary".

Reefs made of waste give home to lobsters

LOBSTERS are among 250 species that have been found in reefs made out of power station waste material in Poole, Dorset (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Dr Anthony Jensen of the Department of Oceanography at Southampton University told the British Association's meeting yesterday that two wastes generated in huge amounts by coal-fired power stations - pulverised fuel ash and gypsum waste from flue gas desulphurisation plants - had been mixed and stabilised to create coral-like reefs in water about 30ft deep.

Three years after the reefs were put in place, they had created additional habitat and apparently increased the number of living species in the area. He said plants growing on the blocks were gradually transforming them into close copies of local natural reefs.

Dr Jensen said adult lobsters had set up home in the new reefs within three weeks, and showed considerable "site loyalty". Between July 1990 and September 1991, 61 lobsters were caught, of a size that indicated that they had migrated to the reefs.

He said this suggested that wastes from power stations could be used to establish lobster fisheries where none existed, or to enhance existing fisheries. He said the idea could also be used in coastal defence structures, such as a plan already proposed to protect the Norfolk Broads by building 16 five-mile reefs 330 yards offshore.

Whole-wheat bread may never be the same again. Peter Goodenough of the Agriculture and Food Research Council's Institute of Food Research yesterday described how the straw as well as the ear of the wheat plant might be added to bread or other foods.

By using specially engineered enzymes to crack open the structure of the straw, scientists are hoping to create an edible fibre with the same qualities as bran. As well as improving the quality of the food, the technique would provide a use for thousands of tons of straw that from next year can no longer be burned in the fields.



Hot-footed: a member of the Wessex Skeptics demonstrates walking on hot embers to the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Southampton yesterday. A team led by Dr Robin Allen set out to prove that the practice was not a God-given power or a triumph of mind over matter, and that legendary feats of coal-walkers of the Far East were possible because of the physics of heat conduction

Why athletes are left feeling sick as a parrot

THE reason Gary Lineker failed to equal Bobby Charlton's record of 49 goals for England may have been discovered by scientists studying the human brain, who have found two distinct patterns of electrical activity that can spell the difference between sporting success or failure.

During Mr Lineker's crucial moment at Wembley in May he may have suffered an uncharacteristic surge in specific brain frequencies in the beta waveband, flooding from the back of his head. At the same time specific frequencies in the alpha band, which sweep over the front from left to right, could have suffered a marked fall. Put another way, he probably wasn't concentrating on the job at hand.

The findings, which give a scientific description of the

so-called cool head and the remote, almost glazed look which comes over some sports people before an event, have been made by scientists in the sport science and physical education department of St Mary's College, Twickenham. They have been monitoring brain patterns of karate athletes, cricketers and footballers aiming for goal.

David Collins, who presented details of their research at the association's meeting in Southampton, said the karate athletes were monitored at several key moments in the build-up to breaking wood. Two thicknesses were used,

one an inch thick and the other three inches.

Dr Collins said that in the final moments before breaking the wood an alpha surge of 8 to 13 hertz was observed accompanied by a fall of beta frequencies in the 14 to 30 hertz band. The surge was even more pronounced in those who broke the thicker wood. The surge and decline did not occur in those who failed to break the thicker wood.

Dr Collins believes what is happening is that a successful sportsman stops brain processing, which is linked with frequencies in the beta

waveband. In other words, he or she is fully prepared. This allows the part of the brain linked with movement to work at peak performance.

Archers in America have been attempting to harness the findings from one test, in which one group of archers was encouraged to try to create winning brain patterns while wired up to an electroencephalograph, or EEG, while another group was encouraged to create losing patterns. Once the two groups had achieved these different electrical brain states a green light came on and arrows were released. Those who made the alpha surge outperformed the others.

The researchers have also been applying psychological techniques to understanding links between aggression and different sports and the im-

pact of anabolic steroids on the mental state of sports people. In the study, carried out with colleagues in America, bodybuilders who took anabolic steroids were compared with those who did not. The participants had 24 heart monitors fitted for six to seven days to see how excitable they got in everyday situations.

"We got much higher heart rates for a given situation for steroid users than we did in the non-steroid users, even when corrected for body size," said Dr Collins. "When they were relaxing their heart rates were higher, when they trained at a similar intensity their heart rates were higher and they were more variable," he said. Imaginary situations of provocation produced violent responses from the steroid users.

Antibody from mice will carry cancer drug

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

BRITISH scientists are to use genetically engineered mouse antibodies to carry a lethal drug that kills cancer cells.

The drug is calicheamicin, a natural product produced by fungi. It is highly effective at killing cancer cells, but also destroys normal cells. Scientists from the British biotechnology company Celtech and the American firm Cyanamid are to use a "humanised" mouse antibody to carry it directly to the inside of the tumour cell.

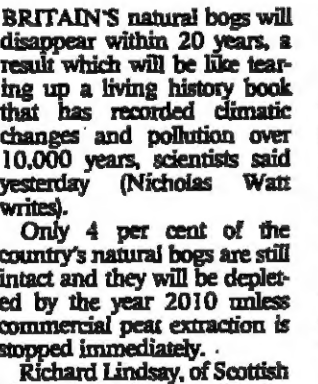
The antibody is directed at a protein called CD33, found on the wall of the tumour cells but not on normal cells. This means that the antibody can act as a "Trojan horse", selecting only the cancer cells for attack while leaving normal cells unscathed.

David Bloxham, of Celtech Research, based in Slough, told the British Association meeting in Southampton yesterday that the vehicle to carry the drug would be a mouse antibody, modified by genetic engineering so that it was closer to a... responding human antibody. This should avoid the problem of its being recognised as foreign and destroyed by the immune system.

The drug delivery system had been tested in the laboratory against human leukaemia cells and proved effective. The first clinical trials were expected to begin next year in patients suffering from acute myeloid leukaemia, a disease that is diagnosed in about 35,000 people a year worldwide. Patients are generally in their 40s, although an exception is the footballer Gary Lineker's son George. Within two years of diagnosis, up to 90 per cent of adults contracting the disease have died, Dr Bloxham said.

He envisaged the system being used to reduce the bulk of the tumour, or in a technique called autologous bone marrow transplant, in which the white blood cells are removed and purged of cancer cells before being replaced in patients.

Peat extraction endangers last primeval landscape



Sharrod: working to save the Emer Bog

BRITAIN'S natural bogs will disappear within 20 years, a result which will be like tearing up a living history book that has recorded climatic changes and pollution over 10,000 years, scientists said yesterday (Nicholas Watt writes).

Only 4 per cent of the country's natural bogs are still intact and they will be depleted by the year 2010 unless commercial peat extraction is stopped immediately.

Richard Lindsay, of Scottish Natural Heritage, told the annual meeting of the British Association yesterday that peatlands had been ignored to death. "We fear for the forests, we weep for the woods, we grieve for the grasslands but we still go to the garden centre to buy our bag of peat," he said. "Yet they are some of the very last remnants of our truly natural, primeval landscape."

Bogs recorded even the slightest climatic changes because dead plants remained preserved in them for up to 10,000 years. "Peatlands are sealed, compost heaps. They are waterlogged and acidic, which leaves a wet, unmineralised material. Biological indicators can tell us what has happened before we can measure the changes ourselves," Dr Lindsay said.

Plants in bogs were so sensitive that they recorded pollution created during the industrial revolution and volcanic eruptions from as far away as North America. "Because bogs rely totally on the atmosphere for water and nutrients, they are very good at locking up minerals," Doctor Lindsay said. "We are only just learning how to read that information: to destroy bogs now would be like taking a sledgehammer to the Rosetta stone."

At yesterday's meeting, conservationists clashed with sci-

entists who defended peat extraction. Alan Robertson, of the UK Peat Producers' Association, said the industry used a small amount of Britain's peat compared with farming and forestry. "We are conscious of the environmental problems and we are trying to agree a strategy with English Nature," he said.

Bogs are not just threatened by gardeners depleting Britain's peat. Conservationists in Hampshire demonstrated how a bog had virtually dried up because it was no longer grazed by cattle.

David Sharrod, of the Hampshire Wild Life Trust, said: "Once grazing stopped in the early part of this century on the Emer Bog, vegetation took over and took up nearly all the water. In our scheme we will remove the unwelcome vegetation, such as birch trees and bracken, and then reintroduce cattle who will act as mowers."

The scheme would bring back birds, such as the nightjar and stonechat and plants such as the marsh cinerfoil. His task, however, is a timeless one: volunteers have to hack through the thick vegetation spread over 15 acres on ground that is often slushy.

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English inch their way above Scots

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE economic ascendancy of England, particularly southern England, over Scotland during the past 150 years is mirrored in the height of the two countries' inhabitants, a British researcher said yesterday.

Bernard Harris, of the sociology and social policy department of Southampton University, has based his findings on anthropometric surveys carried out from the 1860s to the present day.

When the populations of England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland were studied in 1869 by John Beddoe, the Scots were found to be heavier and taller than their counterparts in the rest of the kingdom.

Men north of the border

were, at 67.5in, on average over an inch taller and over a pound heavier than men in the south. Irishmen had the same average stature as the English, and the Welsh, at 66in, were the shortest. In 1883, the comparative figures were broadly the same.

More recent studies showed a reversal in that trend, Dr Harris said, with men in southwest and southeast England, the East Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside taller now, and the Scots on average shorter. Scotsmen were shown to have an average height of 68in whereas for men in the South West the figure was 68.95in, in East Anglia 68.8in and in the South East 68.77in.

Dr Harris said he believed the changes in height reflected greater prosperity south of the border, which had led to better

diet, sanitary conditions and a decrease in disease.

"People in Scotland were probably taller in the nineteenth century because it was rural and they may also have had a better diet. A lot has been written about the virtues of oatmeal and porridge," he said. "In the twentieth century, Scotland is poorer, and just as there has been a change in height so there has been a change in infant mortality rates."

In the mid-nineteenth century, infant mortality rates were lower in Scotland but they are now higher than in England. Overall, the population of the British Isles has risen, which Dr Harris attributes to improvements in the quality of life of the poor after the first world war, the rise of the welfare state and the redistribution of wealth. Men

in Britain today are on average 1.33in taller than they were in 1883. Whether their average height will continue to increase will depend on further improvements in diet and reduction in disease among society's poorer groups.

Dr Harris said social differences based on quality of life and health were still evident in Britain. Men who were senior managers and professionals were, on average, 0.71in taller than skilled manual workers. Similar patterns were seen in women.

Dr Harris said those findings contrasted with patterns in Sweden, an egalitarian country with a tradition of socialist policies. "There the social gradients in height appeared to have disappeared. Swedes also have one of the tallest average heights in the world," he said.

Hillsborough man's family seek end to his coma ordeal

By Bill Frost

A YOUNG football supporter who has been in a coma since the Hillsborough disaster three years ago and kept alive at the law's insistence was yesterday said to be seriously ill after developing blood poisoning.

Tony Bland, 21, has been fed intravenously since the disaster, although his parents and his doctor have asked that he be allowed to die. Mr Bland's brain was damaged by oxygen starvation during the crush on the Sheffield football ground's terraces. He is in a "persistent vegetative state". His brain stems are alive so he breathes normally, but all the higher functions have been destroyed.

Mr Bland has lain motionless in his bed since the disaster. He yawns, blinks and occasionally moans or grunts. Fed and given antibiotics, such patients can live for 10 to 20 years. The record is believed to be almost 40 years.

His parents were at his bedside yesterday after being told that he could die at any time. A spokesman at Airedale Hospital, near the family's home in Keighley, West York-



Bland: kept alive at the law's insistence

shire, said: "Tony's condition remains the same. He is very seriously ill, though he has improved after being given antibiotics."

Dr Jim Howe, who is treating Mr Bland, said earlier this week: "The best that could happen would be for Tony to die. But unfortunately, he is responding to treatment."

"It's a terrible dilemma for medical staff and his parents. We know that it would be best if Tony died but on the other hand he must be treated for

the infection. That is our duty. His family are very upset and will be more so if he dies. But then that will be an end of it for them and for Tony. It will give them all some peace."

A year ago Mr Bland's parents, Allan and Barbara, called for a change in the law that would enable doctors to end his ordeal. Mr Bland Sr said at the time: "The doctors tell us there is no hope for him. As parents we should be given the opportunity to do what we think is best for our son. He has just been lying in hospital ever since that day."

Mrs Bland said: "I suppose people think that the 95 who died are gone and the injured have got better. But Tony's ordeal is still going on. He is in no-man's land."

"He sits in a wheelchair in the mornings and then he is turned over every two hours in his bed. One doctor said he is not feeling anything, it is you two who are suffering."

Dr Howe has been warned by the Medical Defence Union and a coroner that disconnecting Mr Bland's feeding tube could lay him open to a charge of murder or manslaughter. Had the young man been attached to a vent-

ilator the law would have permitted medical staff to switch the machine off and end his life.

□ A Jehovah's Witness bled to death for his beliefs, in spite of hospital doctors' warnings that his life was at stake, an inquest was told yesterday.

Brian Hunt, 49, a technician of Bromley, southeast London, was admitted to Lewisham Hospital with severe rectal bleeding on May 22. The inquest, at Southwark, was told that he refused to have blood under any circumstances, making his objection clear by signing forms drawn up in consultation with a Jehovah's Witness committee.

Doctors warned him that if the bleeding increased his life could be in danger, but he still refused offers of blood. He was operated on three days later but the bleeding continued and he went into a coma. He died on May 26.

Dr Andrew Houghton, senior surgical registrar at the hospital, said: "I have no doubt that this patient would still be alive if we had been able to deal with him in the normal way."

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.



Parental dilemma: Barbara and Allan Bland

Health districts ignore danger of TB among babies

Local authorities are disregarding advice that they should vaccinate children, Alison Roberts reports

CHILDHOOD tuberculosis immunisation programmes vary greatly across England and Wales, a survey has found. Fifteen health authorities do not provide school BCG injections at all, despite expert advice in favour of continuing immunisation, and some districts do not offer vaccines to babies in known high risk groups.

Five districts had stopped their routine schools programmes by 1983, but one was later restarted. Since then 11 more districts have discontinued their programmes and 15 have their policy under review, doctors at the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre report in tomorrow's *British Medical Journal*. Reasons for stopping immunisation include a low incidence of TB, concern about side-effects, and cost.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, which advises the health department, recommends continuation of BCG programmes to prevent TB. Despite a drop in the overall incidence of TB over the past 100 years, the number of reported cases increased slightly in 1988 and 1989.

In 1990 the committee reviewed the situation with a view to abandoning school immunisation. But it concluded that programmes should be maintained, largely because of uncertainties about interaction between TB and HIV.

A total of 184 district health authorities replied to questionnaires sent out by the doctors. Most of the 15 that no longer have school immunisation programmes were in central and South West England and had few residents of Indian origin who are more at risk.

Only five districts offered BCG vaccines to all newborn babies and 31 offered it to none. Some provided injections for those whose parents had recently come from countries with a high incidence of TB. Forty-one districts offered it to people with a family history of the disease and seven gave it to babies from socially deprived white households.

The team, headed by principal scientist Carol Joseph, expresses concern that eight of the 31 districts without any provision for newborn babies have Indian populations of more than 3 per cent. One area was clearly in the higher risk category, with an Indian population of between 11 and 20 per cent. The report calls for a review of policies by district immunisation committees.

□ Evidence of adverse reaction to silicone implants is reported in tomorrow's *Lancet*. American doctors have found antibody reaction in patients fitted with silicone tubing, which drains fluid from the brain to the abdomen.

Rail police pedal in pursuit of vandals

POLICE are trying a rugged mountain bicycle over the stone ballast alongside railway lines in their latest effort to trap vandals, thieves and trespassers whom British Rail says are endangering themselves and the travelling public every day (Paul Wilkinson writes).

Since August 1 last year, 44 people have died in incidents on the railway in the North East. Graham Hobson, the British Transport Police inspector in charge of the operation, said: "We hope the bike will give us a better chance to catch people if they run off."

PC Paul Harding was not so sure as he juddered his way

across the gravel for the benefit of the cameras during a trial run near Leeds. He was sceptical about using the bike on anything except a good path. It is carried on special trains that carry at least six policemen.

The trains have been making unscheduled runs on lines in Yorkshire and the North East this summer to catch the vandals in action and have detained more than 100 suspects. Each train has radio links with officers in at least three road vehicles who shadow the train as it weaves through known trouble spots on the network.

STOP PRESS FRANCE WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

By Julia Hartley-Brewer

This week, *The Times* and LBC conclude the holiday season guide for travellers to France. We list the last-minute bargains, the latest information on bookings, flights, traffic problems and vacation ideas for this weekend. Monday is the last bank holiday before Christmas so availability is limited on many flights and routes. French schools go back at the end of next week so holiday resorts will still be full.



LBC NEWS TALK 97.3

The end of the holiday season will mean heavy traffic on most routes, according to the AA. Approach roads to Paris will be particularly congested as traffic heads north from the coasts. Saturday and Sunday will see tailbacks on the A9 and N113 from Montpellier and Nîmes, on the A9 between Nîmes and Orange, the A6, A7 and N7 near Lyon and all routes around Bordeaux. The N42 near St Omer is closed until October 9. The good news is that the roadworks on the Boulevard Peripherique around Paris are now finished.

Dan-Air from Gatwick. Flights start at £133 on British Midland and £139 on Dan-Air and Air France. All Air France flights to Bordeaux are full. Flights to Nice have limited availability on most carriers, but Air UK still has space on its Stansted-Nice flights, although return flights on Monday are full.

Space on Hoverspeed routes to French ports for passengers and cars is limited, but there is space on hovercraft routes all weekend. P&O still has some space on its Dover/Calais routes. Brittany Ferries has spaces on most routes, with greater choice on earlier crossings.

French Railways still has limited spaces on some Motorail services from Boulogne for the weekend. Bordeaux/Biarritz is fully booked, but there are some seats for Avignon, Brive, Narbonne and Toulouse today and Saturday.

The pound has weakened slightly against the franc. The sterling-franc exchange rate is at 9.98 when buying and 9.28 when selling.

Holiday blackspots, page 16

EXTRA SALE SAVINGS AT COMET THIS BANK HOLIDAY. 4 DAYS ONLY.

EXTRA SAVINGS ON STEREO SYSTEMS AND CASSETTES

GOODMANS 4250 (port) CD Mini system/2 x 15 watts (RMS)/Twin cassette was £199.99, previously £249.99 **SAVE £70**

SONY CCDF455 (below) 8mm Camcorder/8 x power zoom/Long play/Remote control Man. Rec. Price £799.99 **SAVE £250**

AMSTRAD STR100 Stereo Radio Cassette was £89.99, previously £129.99 **SAVE £30**

SHARP QTCD55 CD Stereo Radio Cassette was £149.99, previously £179.99 **SAVE £30**

SANYO 901CD Remote control Mini system 10 Months Interest Free Credit **SAVE £50**

MITSUBISHI CX1 VHS-C/Palmcorder/Twin speed/8 x power zoom was £599.99, previously £799.99 **SAVE £250**

EXTRA SAVINGS ON TELEVISIONS AND VIDEO

MITSUBISHI M55 (below) Video Recorder/Twin speed/NICAM digital stereo/4 head was £449.99, was £479.99, previously £529.99 **SAVE £132.50**

MITSUBISHI 21A2 (above) 51cm CTV/NICAM digital stereo/Fastest/SCART socket was £449.99, previously £549.99 **SAVE £90**

HURRY - LIMITED STOCKS

GOODMANS VCP600 Video Player/Remote control was £129.99, previously £149.99 **SAVE £20**

GOODMANS 1402 34cm CTV/Remote control was £199.99, previously £249.99 **SAVE £50**

GOODMANS 10 Compact 10 25cm CTV/Remote control was £199.99, previously £249.99 **SAVE £50**

PANASONIC 21V1 51cm CTV/NICAM digital stereo/Fastest/2-way speakers was £499.99, previously £549.99 **SAVE £100**

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TECHNOLIC T100M 0.6 cu.ft. capacity/700 watts (EC) was £74.99, previously £79.99 **SAVE £10**

PROLINE 1615 0.7 cu.ft. capacity/700 watts (EC)/Touch control **SAVE £10**

PROLINE 2625 1.2 cu.ft. capacity/900 watts (EC)/Programmable was £149.99, previously £159.99 **SAVE £20**

SWAN SW650 0.55 cu.ft. capacity/650 watts (EC)/Grill/Manual was £139.99, previously £149.99 **SAVE £10**

VACUUM CLEANER

GOLIN 19209.01 Upright/1450 watts was £59.99, previously £79.99 **SAVE £25**

SMALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES

BLACK & DECKER S235 Jet of Steam Iron was £169.99, previously £229.99 **SAVE £19**

PHILIPS 4685 4 Slice Toaster was £19.99, previously £24.99 **SAVE £13**

ROWENTA K662 Cordless Jug Kettle was £19.99, previously £24.99 **SAVE £7**

TEFAL 9922 Coffee Maker/Permanent filter was £19.99, previously £29.99 **SAVE £12**

TEFAL 1600 Jet of Steam Iron was £29.99, previously £39.99 **SAVE £8**

TEFAL 3610 Deep Fryer/Cookwell was £44.99, previously £54.99 **SAVE £15**

KENWOOD KM201 Chef Food Mixer was £129.00, previously £139.00 **SAVE £15**

REFRIGERATION

LEC F424 Chest Freezer/4.0 gross cu.ft. **SAVE £40**

PERSONAL CARE

CAMMEN HD600 Hairdryer/2000 watts was £12.99, previously £29.99 **SAVE £15**

PHILIPS HS805 Rechargeable Men's Shaver was £34.99, previously £39.99 **SAVE £4.50**

VIDEO RECORDERS

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MITSUBISHI MS4 NICAM digital stereo/Twin speed/4 head was £399.99, previously £449.99 **SAVE £90**

ANSWERING MACHINE

SOUTHWESTERN BELL FA1000 Remote control/Call screening was £29.99, previously £44.99 **SAVE £10**

EXTRA SAVINGS ON REFRIGERATION AND COOKERS

TRICITY CL005 (Illustration only) Larger Fridge/4.3 gross cu.ft. was £149.99, previously £189.99 **SAVE £30**

NEW WORLD Asselt (Illustration only) Gas Cooker/Slot-in/510mm width **SAVE £50**

PROLINE F70 Upright Freezer/7.0 gross cu.ft. 12 Months Interest Free Credit **SAVE £20**

TECHNOGAS Caprino Gas Cooker/Slot-in/500mm width **SAVE £20**

ARISTON G505 Electric Cooker/Slot-in/500mm width **SAVE £50**

PROLINE RFB331 Fridge/Freezer/510mm/62.1 gross cu.ft. **SAVE £80**

EXTRA SAVINGS ON AUTOWASHERS AND DISHWASHERS

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CANDY C50 (Illustration only) Dishwasher/12 place settings/7 programmes 10 Months Interest Free Credit **SAVE £120**

ARISTON LS451 Autowasher/8 place settings/4 programmes **SAVE £30**

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Saturday: 10.00am to 6.00pm
Sunday: 10.00am to 6.00pm

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Greens' leader blames resignation on row over Icke invitation

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DISPUTE over a decision to invite David Icke to the Green party conference precipitated Sara Parkin's decision to resign as chairman of its executive.

Mrs Parkin said yesterday that she and the rest of the executive had felt that it was against the interests of the party to invite Mr Icke, a former national spokesman for the Greens, who last year proclaimed himself the "Son of God". However, critics

within the party insisted that he be allowed to address a fringe meeting at the conference in Wolverhampton next month.

"A small number of people are insisting that he be there," she said. "As long as you have that sort of anarchic situation, it is one step forward and three steps back all the time."

It is understood that Rick Duriez, a party activist, first invited Mr Icke to speak at a fringe meeting. Conference

organisers feared that the presence of Mr Icke, who left the Greens more than two years ago, would hijack media coverage of the conference and distract attention from key policy debates. They asked him to stay away, but Mr Duriez and Mr Icke said they still intended to attend. Faced with the prospect of physically barring Mr Icke from the conference, the executive reluctantly backed down.

Duncan McCann, the conference convenor, said that the dispute was symptomatic of what had been going on in the party. "Democratically elected people decide one thing but somehow, because of an internal uproar, they are forced to overturn that decision."

Speaking on BBC Radio 4, Mrs Parkin expounded on her resignation letter in which she said that the party had become a "liability" to green politics. "There is a general feeling inside the Green party that what matters more are the internal wranglings," she said. "I am just not prepared to devote my time to that. There are so many important and positive things to be done in green politics and I prefer to devote my time to that."

The party issued a statement regretting her decision to step down from the committee in charge of the day-to-day running of the party. It said that an overwhelming majority of party members regarded her as their greatest asset and would sorely miss her.

Mr Icke, who was a professional footballer before becoming a sports journalist, caused consternation last year when he predicted that Britain would be devastated by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes and tidal waves. Mr Icke has since admitted that some of his prophecies were "crazy", but has caused more surprises with a university lecture tour entitled "Is Icke off his bike?"

Mrs Parkin's resignation is the latest blow to the Greens, who have subsided from the heady days of the 1989 European elections, in which they polled 15 per cent of the vote and won the support of 2.3 million people. At the general election, they amassed only 170,000 votes, averaging only 1.3 per cent support in the 253 seats they contested. Membership has halved to 9,700 and the party has been forced to cut back to three full-time staff. An organisational overhaul last year failed to end the feuding between fundamentalists and pragmatists.

Leading article, page 13



Lib Dems demand hotel rescue deal

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE British holiday industry is in danger of collapsing, with a disproportionately high number of hotel businesses in receivership, the Liberal Democrats said yesterday. The party called on the government to bring forward an emergency rescue package to prevent the "devastation" of local economies.

Almost half the owners of tourism businesses in north Cornwall had either put them up for sale or were thinking about doing so, Paul Tyler, Liberal Democrat MP for Cornwall North, said yesterday as the party published a study of the industry, entitled *Candy Floss Complacency*. Nine out of ten blamed high interest rates for their plight.

The party's document says that operators report low occupancy rates, lower spending by visitors and shorter stays. In the first five months of this year, room occupancy in the West Country fell to 35 per cent and in Cumbria to 44 per cent. English Tourist Board figures to June show a 5 per cent drop in 1991.

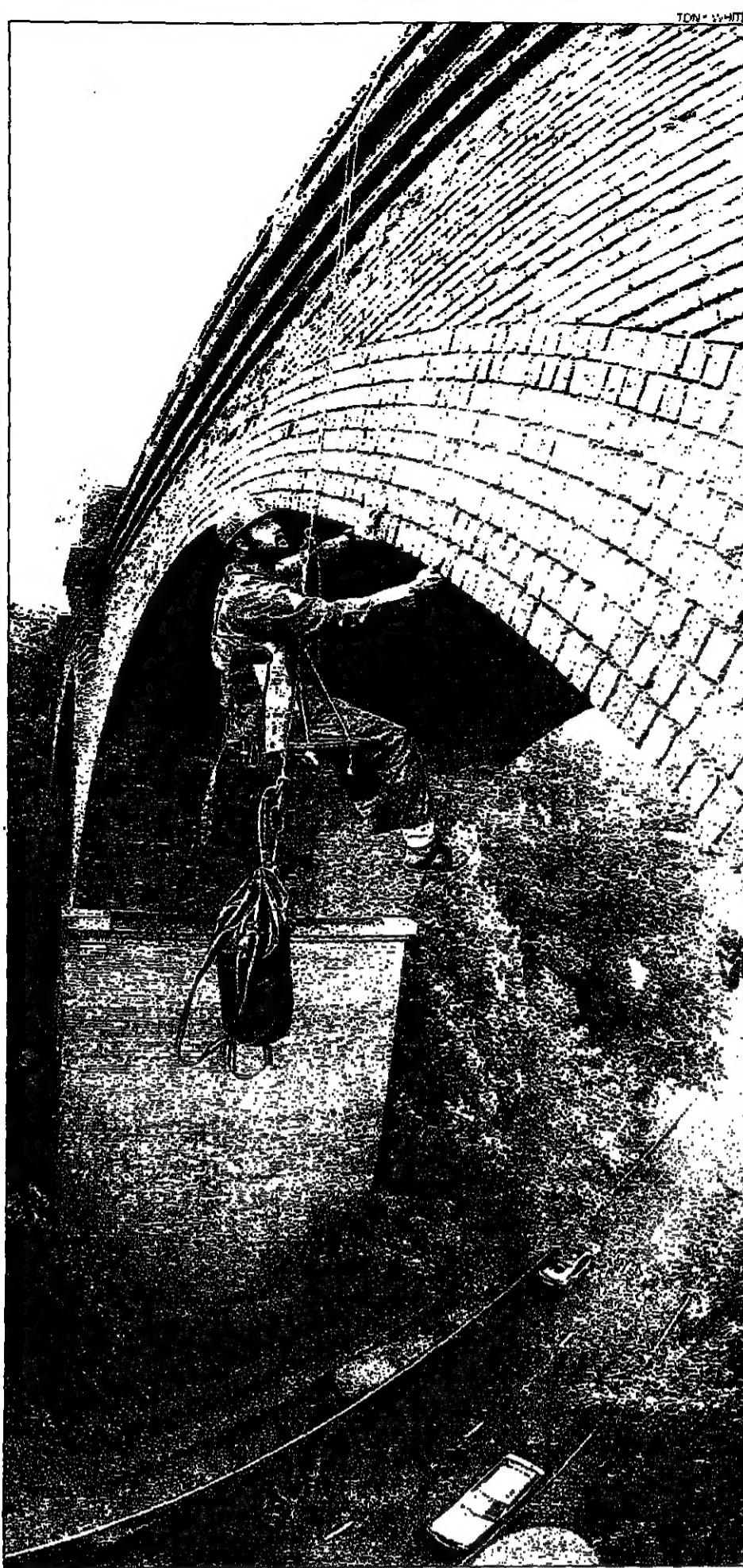
The study complains that, while there is a blanket rate of value-added tax at 17.5 per

cent on meals and rooms in Britain, it is only 5.5 per cent for rooms in France and 6 per cent in Spain. In Italy, a restaurant meal bears a rate of 9 per cent.

Other problems identified are a level of uniform business rate that bears no relation to profitability or the declining value of properties, spiralling water charges in some areas and the cost of cleaning the coastline. It says that there are huge discrepancies in the application of health and safety regulations across Europe.

The Liberal Democrats are asking for:

- an emergency package such as that negotiated between the government and building societies, to enable hotel keepers to stay on in their business premises, which are often their homes as well;
- adaptation of the uniform business rate to permit lower payments where hotels are partly closed;
- an equalisation grant for the water industry to enable holiday operators in high-cost areas to peg their charges;
- a Europe-wide survey of the distorting effect of different VAT rates.



High anxiety: Nick Hawtin, a civil engineer, is suspended 120ft above the ground yesterday as he checks the brickwork of the ten-arch Victorian railway viaduct that leads to the station at East Grinstead, West Sussex. The viaduct is to be handed over by British Rail on September 8 to the Bluebell Railway, which is ensuring that it is in good condition

Ministers act to halt bail hostel protests

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are to issue new guidelines on the development of bail hostels in an effort to reduce protests throughout the country over proposals to open premises where people alleged to be criminals are to be housed.

The move follows a series of victories by communities who have forced probation committees to abandon plans to open hostels. The strength of opposition to bail hostels has caused concern in the Home Office, which wants to set up a network of centres and divert alleged offenders from overcrowded prisons.

A key element of the *Approved Hostels Development Guide*, to be published in the autumn, will require probation committees to show how they intend to consult local people about their proposals. Each committee will have to prepare a comprehensive strategy for dealing with the public, which will be sent to the Home Office for approval.

Officials at the Home Office have been dismayed at the way some probation committees have been forced to abandon plans for hostels in the wake of vigorous protest campaigns that the committees have found difficult to counter. Ministers have also said they are tired of receiving complaints from Tory MPs over plans for hostels in their constituencies.

It is recognised that the siting of probation hostels is always likely to threaten outbreaks of the "not in my back yard" syndrome but the Home Office is anxious to avoid disputes similar to the argument that erupted between Stockport Metropolitan Council and Greater Manchester Probation Service over a plan to convert an hotel into an hostel.

Although the council's director of administration had accused the probation service of making considerable efforts to conceal the purpose of a planning application to carry out alterations to the hotel, the Home Office said there was no reason to suppose that there had been any attempt at concealment and was satisfied the committee had not acted improperly.

NEWS IN BRIEF

University studies joyriders

The University of Teesside is to launch a special investigation into the young delinquents' "sport" of joyriding (Paul Wilkinson writes). Roger Burrows, an associate dean in the college at Middlesbrough, said that the idea for the two-year project was first mooted after the Meadow Well riots on Tyneside last September, which were sparked by police attempts to stop joyriders.

He said joyriders would be asked why — and how — they do it. "Breaking into cars these days is a specialised skill. Do they serve an apprenticeship? How are these skills passed on?"

£7m payout

Eight-year-old Louise Sugden, of Stockcross, Berkshire, who was paralysed from the waist down in a car crash when she was ten months old, stands to receive more than £7 million compensation under a High Court damages settlement announced in London yesterday.

Rabies ruling

Irina Korj, from the Russian ship *Anatoliy Gankovick*, which is anchored off Lerwick, Shetland, for the herring season, was yesterday fined £40 for taking her puppy ashore for a walk, contravening health laws on rabies.

Keeping track

A loophole allowing train drivers to escape drink and drug abuse laws is to be closed. From December 7, it will be a criminal offence to work on a railway while unfit through drink or drugs.

Protest sparked

The latest television advertisement for Levi jeans, featuring a semi-naked macho mechanic standing in a shower of sparks, has been criticised by the British Safety Council as totally mindless and highly dangerous.

Assault denied

John Garvey, a senior Cleveland county councillor, was bound over to behave for a year on £50 at Teesside Crown Court yesterday after denying assaulting David Ross, a fellow Labour councillor.

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NEW INTEREST RATES FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 1992

ACCOUNT	INTEREST RATES	
	Gross % p.a.	Net % p.a.
GOLD NINETY ACCOUNT (Annual Interest)		
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£25,000 - £49,999	9.30	6.98
£10,000 - £24,999	9.00	6.75
£2,000 - £9,999	8.20	6.15
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£10,000 - £24,999	8.25	6.19
£5,000 - £9,999	7.75	5.81
£2,000 - £4,999	7.00	5.25
£500 - £1,999	6.50	4.88
Under £500	4.00	3.00
Quarterly rates available on request		
PREMIUM ACCOUNT (Quarterly Interest)		
£50,000 and over	9.00	6.75
£25,000 - £49,999	8.60	6.45
£10,000 - £24,999	8.00	6.00
£5,000 - £9,999	6.50	4.88
£2,000 - £4,999	6.00	4.50

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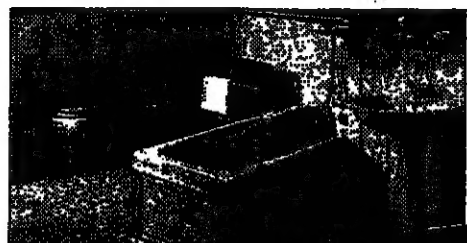
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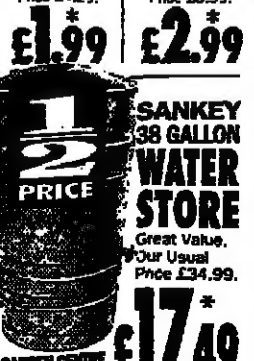
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BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

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Western intervention in Iraq

Arab world sceptical over exclusion zone

AS American warplanes and surveillance aircraft started to patrol the skies over southern Iraq yesterday to enforce a ban on the Iraqis flying south of the 32nd parallel, congressmen, foreign policy experts and former US diplomats took to the American airwaves to explain the drawbacks and advantages of the West's new intervention in the Gulf.

Operation Southern Watch, as it is codenamed, was launched late yesterday afternoon amid little of the Arab enthusiasm that greeted the start of the Gulf war. The local scepticism, inflamed by what many critics have alleged are the shaky legal credentials of the exercise, are certain to be exploited by President Saddam Hussein's propaganda machine in the tense days to come.

Reporters aboard the aircraft carrier the USS *Independence*, which will provide the backbone of the air power to enforce the flight ban, noted that the announcement of the operation was greeted with none of the enthusiasm with

Experts say the no-fly zone leaves Saddam with many options, Jaime Detmer writes

which the crew met the start of the Gulf conflict. Aboard the carrier the move was immediately christened "Operation Freezing Level" because, in the words of one pilot, "below 32 degrees, nothing moves".

The decks of the *Independence* buzzed with activity as the crew loaded missiles on fighter jets and prepared surveillance planes. They were tight-lipped about which planes would fly.

Pilots were given pistols for protection in case they were shot down in the exclusion zone. The Aegis-class cruiser *Mobile Bay*, the carrier's protective "shotgun", followed in the wake of the *Independence* as a civilian tanker pumped fuel into its tanks. "Hopefully

they will comply, which means that we've done our job just by being here," said Lieutenant Cam O'Kuinghtons, 26, from Nevada City, California.

Many Middle East experts, however, believe the air exclusion zone and the aerial protection by the allies of Shia Muslim rebels in the south could lead to the dismemberment of Iraq, a rise in tensions between Iran, Syria and Turkey and may result in a long-term US military commitment in the region. "Our grandchildren are going to be in the Gulf to clear up the mess," predicted Ted Carpenter, a Middle East analyst at the Cato Institute.

James Akies, a former American ambassador to Saudi Arabia, said the no-fly zone would not prevent the Iraqis from quelling the Shia insurgency in the southern marshlands north of the city of Basra. Robert Oakley, who served on the National Security Council under Ronald Reagan, doubted whether the ban would lead to the fall of Saddam, the administration's

ultimate objective. "Saddam is clever enough not to give the Western powers a clear target. He will continue to duck and dodge until after our election," he said.

Most analysts questioned what the administration could or would do, if Saddam decided to mount a ground offensive against the Shias with the eight to ten divisions he has

deployed in southern Iraq. When announcing the air exclusion zone on Wednesday, Mr Bush indicated that an increase in attacks on the Shias would be viewed by Washington with concern and said additional military steps could be taken.

White House officials declined yesterday to spell out what this action might be

Most academics doubted whether Gulf Arab countries, already uneasy over the no-fly ban, would support the idea of US ground operations or bombing raids on Baghdad.

Just as the administration failed to develop a policy to box Saddam in after the liberation of Kuwait, so Washington has no clear grasp of what happens next, according

to specialists and congressmen. Les Aspin, the Republican chairman of the powerful House armed services committee, yesterday said that although he supported the no-fly ban, he was concerned that the administration seemed unaware that Saddam has "lots of cards to play".

He criticised the administration for having no clear plan to deal with what he sees as Saddam's two main military options: launch further ground attacks in the south and or mount attacks against the Kurds in the north. "The one in the north would be more troublesome for us because the Turks are not on board on this policy," Mr Aspin said.

A fierce debate also erupted over the administration's change of heart over Iraqi Shias. After Operation Desert Storm, Washington decided to ignore the Shia rebellion in the south because it believed the insurrection was Iranian-inspired and would lead to the south separating from Iraq. Now, it seems to think that all the various Shia groups in the south are committed to a unified Iraq and are not in the

pocket of Iran. Phoebe Marr, an expert on Iraq at the National War College, said: "The Shia I know do not want a separate state. They want a reformed Iraqi government in which they play a role proportionate to their numbers in the population."

She pointed out that most of the Iraqi soldiers who fought in the bloody Iran-Iraq war were Shias. Other Middle East experts say this is a naive interpretation and argue that no one in the West really knows much about the Shia rebel groups in the south who are actually fighting Saddam.

What concerns most foreign policy analysts in Washington is the administration's assumption that the state of Iraq will survive if Saddam goes. They say the likelihood is that Iraq would plunge into a civil war and that Syria, Iran and Turkey could be drawn in. (Additional reporting by Christopher Walker in Nicosia and Mariam Isa of Reuters aboard USS *Independence*)

Second Edition held, page 1
Leading article, page 13



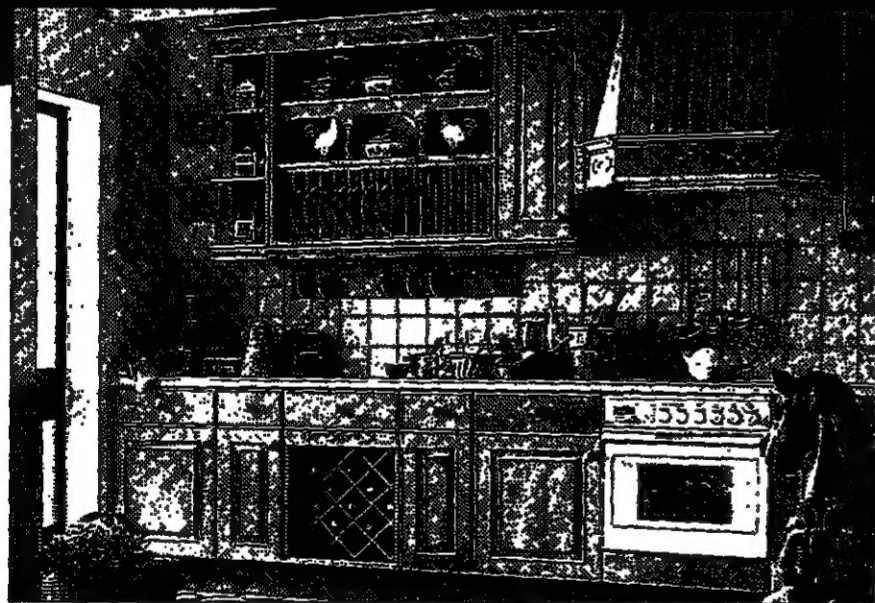
Ready to go: a Tornado about to leave RAF Marham for Saudi Arabia, but Arab reaction to further intervention in Iraq is lukewarm

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PEOPLE

Fischer warned over sanctions violation

Bobby Fischer, the American chess master, may violate United States law if he goes ahead with a rematch of his 1972 championship game with Russian Boris Spassky in Yugoslavia, a Treasury department spokesman said.

Fischer emerged from 20 years of seclusion earlier this month to announce that he would play a nine-game series with Spassky from September 2, despite the United Nations sanctions imposed against former Yugoslavia.

The new Rose of Tralee is Niamh Grogan, 24, a veterinary nurse from Galway. She was a 33-1 outsider against international challengers to win the Irish Republic's most famous beauty contest. Her boyfriend Cusack Brennan won £1,200 after backing her.

The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, may take a break from set-piece summit meetings

with Kichii Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, during his visit next month, to watch sumo wrestling. He will also attend a state banquet hosted by Emperor Akihito.

Rock stars Tom Petty, Bonnie Raitt, Luther Vandross and nine other performers are contributing to *A Very Special Christmas 2*, a follow-up to the album that raised £8.5 million for the Special Olympics.

American director Spike Lee has called on blacks to forego work and school to attend the opening in November 20 of his film *Malcolm X*. "We're telling them they've got to turn out to support this film and support Malcolm," he said.

Ken Kesey, 56, author of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, said his first novel in more than 25 years, *Sailor Song*, is about love and sex in Alaska.

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America's Essex man may ditch Bush in industrial centres

IF THE pundits are right and George Bush loses to his Democrat rival in November, California would have led the way in the unmaking of the president. Not since 1880 have the Republicans won a presidential poll without taking the golden state.

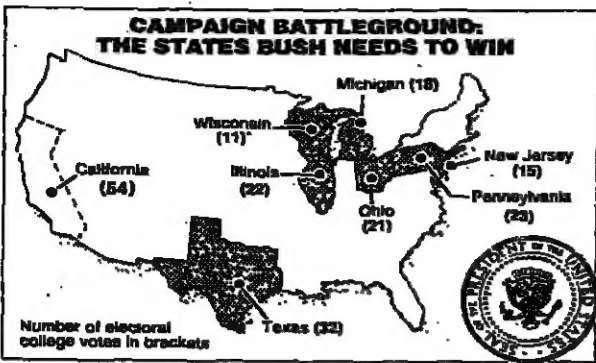
With the bruising primaries and stage-managed conventions over, the Democrat and Republican campaign teams are putting the finishing touches to their strategies for patching together enough states to come up with the magic 270 electoral college votes needed for victory. Both sides have pencilled in California and its 54 electoral college votes as a Democrat gain.

In a state accustomed to optimism and the good times, America's ailing economy has come as a shock and a bitter disappointment to California. A scapegoat is needed and for many Californians President Bush seems to fit the bill. His uneven performance during the Los Angeles riots has done little to help his position.

"I'm not sure about many things in this campaign," said Richard Withlin, a Republican pollster. "But one thing I am 99.9 per cent sure of is that Clinton, unless there is a major, major mistake and the whole thing comes apart, will win California."

The president's campaign managers have decided not to waste too much of his valuable time by having him campaign in the state too often. Barbara Bush will,

California looks as though it is in the Democrats' pocket, but the real election battle now is for the vote of suburbia. Jamie Dettmer writes from Washington



however, make regular campaigning forays into California, as part of an effort to keep the flag flying.

With the golden state leaning towards the Arkansas governor, geography and political arithmetic determine that the five industrial states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania in the northeast and Illinois, Michigan and Ohio in the midwest hold the key to the White House door.

All five states have an abundance of so-called Reagan Democrats, blue collar workers who traditionally voted Democrat but started to switch hesitantly to the Republicans when Richard Nixon stood for the presidency and then defected en masse

with the arrival of Ronald Reagan. Attracted by the Republicans' muscular Cold war policy, conservative populism and tax cuts, the Reagan Democrats had looked set to stay with their new political favourites.

The British equivalent of the Reagan Democrat, Essex man, was wobbly at the last British election but on the whole remained with the Conservatives. President Bush may not be so lucky.

Although all five states have troubled economies, Mr Bush does have certain advantages. Ohio, Illinois and Michigan have Republican governors who can be relied on to place their successful and substantial organisations at the pres-

ident's feet. New Jersey and Pennsylvania have Democrat governors who are unpopular because of recent tax hikes.

Both the Bush and Clinton camps expect New York to go to the Democrats. Mr Clinton is counting on America's economic malaise to rally the Reagan Democrats.

All five states have substantial Roman Catholic populations and the Bush camp believes its "traditional family values" theme could go down well. Patrick Buchanan, the right-wing challenger to Mr Bush in the primaries, has been asked by the Republicans to lend his support and to give these states a dose of his anti-gay, God's own country, Clinton-plans-to-wreck-the-family rhetoric. Mr Buchanan's vitriolic presence could make, however, and frighten away as many middle of the road voters as it attracts disaffected conservatives.

In the south, the battle is likely to be the toughest the Republicans have faced for years. The Democrats will aim to capitalise on Mr Clinton's strong standing among southern blacks and will hope that his moderate message will attract southern whites as well. In the past 24 years, only Jimmy Carter in 1976 was able to wrest the southern states and their 147 votes from the Republicans.

The Democrats should be able to pick up Mr Clinton's home state of Arkansas, and Senator Al Gore's state, Tennessee. They are also hoping



Comic routine: Bill Clinton and wife Hillary joke with Ned McWherter, Tennessee governor, in Memphis

for a breakthrough in North Carolina.

For the past three elections, Texas has been the focus of Republican efforts to keep the south. But this year the Lone Star state and its 32 votes cannot be taken for granted by Mr Bush. The rise of the Hispanic population in the state gives Mr Clinton an

opportunity to harry and worry Mr Bush and make the Republicans fight for every inch of Texas, although the Democrats are resigned to Mr Bush taking it.

Pollsters and pundits will be watching closely to see if there is any evidence of long-term changes in the predominant presidential allegiance

of the American electorate. In the 1930s and 1940s, the string of Democrat presidential victories mirrored a shift of the population from farms to cities.

As Americans began in the 1950s to move to the suburbs, the pendulum swung to the Republicans and stayed there. Now the majority of Ameri-

cans live in the suburbs and the experts will look closely to see if the Democrats can transform themselves into a suburban party, or whether the long-term future lies with the Republicans. The battle for the suburb. — cm.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 12

Pretoria sacks 13 generals in purge of police ranks

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THIRTEEN South African police generals are to be retired in a restructuring of the force intended to restore its battered public credibility. Some of the generals might be replaced, for the first time in the country's history, by black officers.

Hermus Kriel, the law and order minister, said in Pretoria yesterday that the results of a training course for officers of brigadier rank would be known by mid-October and he was confident that "a number of people of colour" will qualify to become generals. "They must work hard and they must study," Mr Kriel said.

In all 18 generals, including five whose departure was not directly related to the shake-up, will leave the force in coming months. In the past, Mr Kriel admitted, promotions to senior rank had been subject to a policy of racial discrimination. He indicated that a purge to rid the force of ingrained racist attitudes could sweep through its ranks. It would most probably be necessary, he said, to consider a rationalisation of lower ranks in order to rejuvenate the police force.

A committee would investigate training methods in terms of international standards and the use of minimum force. Emphasis would be placed on total impartiality, professionalism and courtesy towards all members of the public. It was absolutely essential, said Mr Kriel, that policing style in South Africa adapted to the new circumstances. "What we intend doing is to intensify the process of



Kriel: to appoint black generals

changing the hearts and minds of the policeman in the force, and that's what this initiative is all about," Mr Kriel said.

A new division of community relations, which could be headed by a black officer, is to be established and community policing officers will be appointed to liaise and consult on a continual basis with the public. "I trust that this hand of friendship will be accepted by the entire community and all parties as a genuine gesture aimed at bridging the gap which exists between the South African police and certain communities," Mr Kriel said.

In addition, an independent body headed by a judge is to be set up to investigate alleged police complicity in serious crimes and murders which until now have been handled by internal enquiries.

This body would be separate from the commission into violence headed by Judge Richard Goldstone, who has recommended urgent steps to restore police credibility among blacks. Justice Goldstone cited mistrust of the police as one of the factors hindering efforts to stem township fighting.

There was no immediate comment from the African National Congress, which has accused the white-led force of siding with the rival Inkatha Freedom Party in township wars that have killed 12,000 blacks in eight years. Mr Kriel said that because the ANC was not talking to the government he could not consult it. "No one knows how long the impasse is going to last. I can't wait with these initiatives until such time as negotiations are on their way again."

But the right-wing Conservative party lashed out, describing the restructuring of the police as typical of the government's cowardly compliance with the power-hungry ANC alliance. Frank le Roux, its law and order spokesman, said: "Years of experience and know-how will summarily be lost. No enterprising country can afford such an irresponsible waste of high-level manpower."

Police commissioner General Johan van der Merwe told the news conference that his senior officers gave their full backing to the new measures and the retirements. He said authority would be devolved as much as possible away from headquarters in Pretoria to the regions. To improve policing

of unrest areas, an extra 1,600 men would be assigned to the riot unit, he said.

There are currently 55 generals in the 70,000-strong police force and more than 100 altogether in the police, defence force and prisons service. But the army, which had its wings clipped last month when President de Klerk announced the disbanding of controversial units, has no intention of instituting a similar shake-up. One of the disbanded units is 32 Battalion, made up of black Angolans, which has been accused of brutality in township actions. A Defence Force spokesman said: "The SADF does not retire generals. Generals retire when they reach retirement age according to the normal rules of the commission for administration."

The police yesterday shot and wounded two people in the Phola Park squatter camp, southeast of Johannesburg, during an anti-crime sweep. A spokesman said police were stoned by angry residents as they drove away from the camp and a policeman fired into the crowd. An investigation was being carried out into the causes and circumstances of the shooting, he said.

Continuing political unrest claimed the lives of 17 people yesterday and on Wednesday night, police also said. They said five commuters were flung from moving trains, eight were killed during a rampage through Eskhewini township in Natal province, and four died in knife and gun attacks in a number of townships around Johannesburg.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China sets date for Patten visit

Peking: Chris Patten, the Hong Kong governor, will visit China in October, bringing him face to face with deeply suspicious Chinese leaders (Catherine Sampson writes). Peking has said nothing in public about him since he arrived in the colony, but an article yesterday in *Ta Kung Pao*, a Peking-run newspaper published in Hong Kong, accused Mr Patten of putting on a series of "performances" with the aim of winning over Hong Kong people: these included accepting a petition from demonstrators outside his residence.

The paper urged people not to be taken in by Mr Patten. It quoted an unnamed Chinese author saying: "The only one who really cares about Hong Kong is China..." Mr Patten will be in Peking from October 12 to 14. By that time the Chinese leadership will have heard and digested his annual policy speech, which Mr Patten will deliver in Hong Kong on October 7. For Peking to welcome him with open arms, Mr Patten would have to deny in that speech any intention of extending democracy in Hong Kong before it is handed over to China in 1997. If he were to do so he would find that after months of waiting, Peking's go-ahead on the colony's controversial new airport would be immediately forthcoming.

Angola reforms

Lusaka: The single-party Angolan parliament approved a revision of the constitution to enshrine democracy ahead of multiparty elections next month, and dropped the styling "people's republic" from the country's name. (AP)

Embassy opens

Seoul: China's red and gold flag was hoisted over Seoul to mark the opening of Peking's new embassy in South Korea. The establishment of diplomatic relations formally ended four decades of Cold war hostility. (Reuters)

Pilot killed

Delhi: Inspector General T. S. Dhalwal, head of the aviation wing of India's Border Security Force, was killed when the plane he was piloting burst into flames during a storm shortly after taking off from Delhi airport. (Reuters)

Plane offered

Manila: The Philippine government offered an air force plane to fly the body of Ferdinand Marcos home from Hawaii. The government said that the offer was made to Imelda Marcos, the former president's widow. (Reuters)

Toy firms hit

Taipei: About 300 toy company owners and their employees demonstrated outside Taiwan's interior ministry over police seizure of toy guns as part of a campaign against violent crime, costing the industry \$4 million. (Reuters)

Japan party baron quits over scandal

Tokyo: Shin Kanemaru, arguably Japan's most powerful politician, offered to resign as vice-president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party yesterday after he admitted receiving money from Japan's largest parcel delivery firm.

The surprise move by Mr Kanemaru, 77, nicknamed the "kingmaker", followed media reports last week that he had received 500 million yen (£2 million) from the company, Sagawa Kyubin. "I first refused the money," he said. "But I accepted it in the end as contribution to my colleagues at the time of general elections (in 1990). I must assume responsibility for my conduct." He admitted the money was not reported to the home affairs ministry, which would have made it a legitimate political contribution.

Mr Kanemaru said he would also resign as head of the party's dominant faction, founded by Noboru Takeshita. "I must apologise for my conduct because the party is working towards political reform," he said. (Reuters)

Miami animals ride the storm

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI



Butch the cockatoo and friend in 1946

I took a drive through the wasteland of south Miami yesterday, once a lush and largely thriving metropolis of more than a million people. It is hard to believe that now, amid a scene of destruction so complete that I never expected to see anything like it outside a cinema.

The devastation has been likened to an urban battlefield. To me it looked like the aftermath of a nuclear explosion. The tropical climate here favours plant growth, from tall palms to stony mangroves. What remains is an apocalyptic forest.

At least 22 people are dead, 63,000 homes have been ruined and almost 200,000 people are homeless. That is one in every 12 residents of Dade County which encompasses the city of Miami and outlying towns such as Homestead and Florida City.

As the full devastation wreaked by Hurricane Andrew emerges, the fate of Florida's animal population, though not comparable with

the human disaster, reflects some of the same elements. In Homestead, 90 per cent of which was destroyed, stray dogs roam the streets in packs. In one camp of migrant vegetable pickers near the city, three frightened monkeys huddled under a tree as a pack of dogs snarled at the strange intruders. Facing evacuation from my

home on Sunday, I was in a quandary over what to do with my own cat. My wife and I first decided to leave him at home but then bundled him into the car with us.

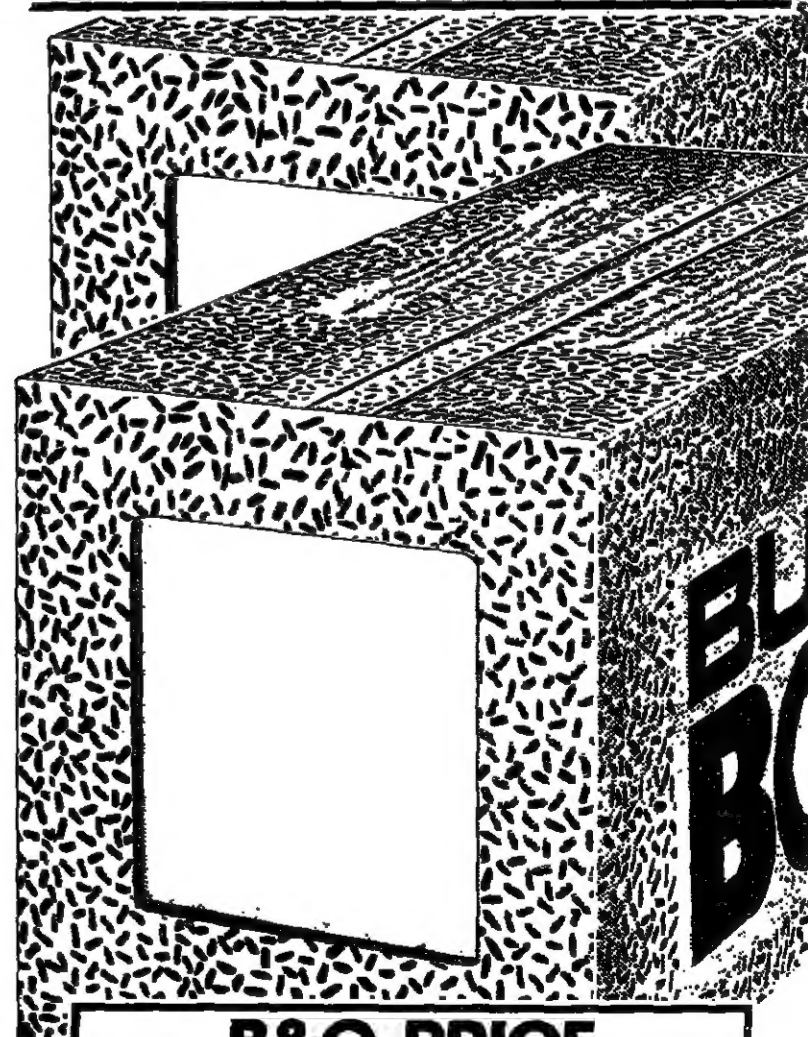
Ronald Stone at the American Animal Hospital, took in more than 300 pets. "Some people who brought their animals to me lost their homes. They were so overjoyed to hear their animals had survived," he said.

In the midst of a flattened forest in south Miami 1,200 birds and animals at Parrot Jungle miraculously escaped harm. The park, a popular attraction for British tourists, has survived several hurricanes since it was created in 1936. Among the survivors was Butch the cockatoo, now in his 50s, who was photographed by Winston Churchill in 1946.

Most animals at Miami's Metropark escaped injury, but 300 rare tropical birds are missing and presumed dead. An impala was killed and several deer are missing.

Biggest loss, page 17

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Traffic in narcotics flourishes

FROM REUTERS
IN BONN

TURNOVER in hard drugs in the West has reached £126 billion per year and governments are losing the fight to prevent the profits being laundered, a German minister said yesterday.

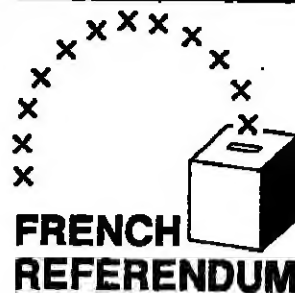
Bernd Schmidbauer, a minister in the chancellor's office, said production and consumption of heroin and cocaine were rising and drug barons were becoming more active in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. "The threat from the international narcotics trade has intensified worldwide," he said in a report to the cabinet.

"Calculations based on relatively reliable production figures show annual hard drugs turnover in Western markets of \$250 billion. It can be assumed that around half of this is laundered." Laws to combat organised crime and money-laundering were ineffective in many countries and international co-ordination was inadequate.

Rudolf Seiters, the interior minister, said the European Community's plans to end border checks and the fall of communism in Eastern Europe would increase the trade.

Gaullist maverick leads French revolt against Maastricht

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN DUNKIRK



FRENCH REFERENDUM

PHILIPPE Séguin is an unlikely political star. He is overweight, speaks in long paragraphs rather than short soundbites, smokes untipped Gauloises and wears unfashionably shaggy hair. He has not been within a hundred miles of a professional image-maker, but he has the French government on the run.

M Séguin, of the neo-Gaullist RPR party, has emerged as the leader of the oddy-assorted rebels who want France to reject the Maastricht treaty on European union. He has taken on a political class which backs the treaty, a galaxy of pro-treaty celebrities, most of the Parisian media and his own party leader. But he is edging ahead in the opinion polls.

M Séguin is defiantly old-fashioned. A few posters declaring "Maastricht - it's No!" appeared here in Dunkirk before he arrived to speak to a rally one evening this week. Five hundred people packed a community centre and sat in suffocatingly humid heat for two hours while he dissected the treaty, rather like a veteran teacher giving a civics lesson. A day earlier, Dunkirk had produced an audience of only a fraction the size to hear the glacial European affairs minister, Elizabeth

Guigou. By September 20, M Séguin will have done 50 such meetings.

France is having its debate on the treaty backwards: after the government has agreed terms, voters are discovering the details. Any hope that people might take the government's advice on trust and nod the treaty through, unread, vanished when M Séguin took to the road, inspired by the Danish referendum result.

M Séguin's appeal rests on a shrewdly-judged combination of style and argument. His style is anti-Parisian: low-key, affable and avuncular. He avoids rabble-rousing insults, giggles a lot and schedules press conferences hours after newspaper deadlines. He has spotted that people's anxieties over the treaty's text are entangled with their resentment of condescending ministers.

Mme Guigou may remove her expensively-tailored jacket and even her shoes when she takes her campaign to the beach, but she still looks a Parisian down to her elegant but inappropriate stockings. Jack Lang, the minister who heads the government's pro-Maastricht campaign, wears fearfully trendy spectacles and is organising his tame celebrities — few of whom have read the treaty — for a grand "Concert for Europe" just before the vote.

The rumpled M Séguin, standing behind a tricolour, says that he adores music but it is not the strongest argument for ratifying Maastricht. Had you noticed, he adds wryly, that none of M Lang's Nobel prize-winners are economists? The audience chuckles.

To this populist style, he adds a moderate argument. On the stump, he accepts the general case for European co-operation and integration, and he concentrates his fire on the defects of the Maastricht treaty alone. He is anticipating a scare campaign by the government suggesting that the Community will fall apart if France kills the treaty. The Treaty of Rome, the Single European Act and the Franco-German treaty will all still stand if Maastricht collapses, he reassures the Dunkirk crowd. Like his Danish counterparts, he sells the idea that voters can be in favour of Europe, but against Maastricht.

He reminds them that the French national assembly turned down the proposed European Defence Community in 1954 amid predictions that rejection would bring disaster, and the ceiling did not fall in. You must find the nerve to ask for a better treaty, he says: a treaty which hands power to Brussels, controls bureaucracy more stringently and leaves France her autonomy in foreign and monetary policy.

Unusually for a French politician, M Séguin talks with fond envy of Britain's "tailor-made" version of the treaty which allows it to opt out of a single currency. After France votes "No", he says, the British government will be required, since it holds the presidency of the EC, to "take the initiative for renegotiating the treaty". Renegotiation, he adds with a wicked smile, is what London really wants anyway.

● **Gaullist weakness:** The Gaullists who have come out against the treaty have been boosted by people's loathing for the Socialist government. But they have weaknesses of their own which may yet make them vulnerable. Jacques Chirac, leader of the RPR party yesterday repeated his call for a "Yes" vote. But polls show that two thirds of his party members reject the treaty.



Battle standard: young neo-Nazis near Berlin put an imperial German on a Russian military truck

Neo-Nazis' siren of hatred summons support across German spectrum

Public sympathy with the views of Rostock's rioters shows that prejudice is not just confined to disaffected skinheads, Anne McElvoy writes

The scenes of the past night's rioting in Rostock were grimly familiar to anyone who has lived in eastern Germany since unification: snarling teenagers hurling stones and chanting "Ausländer raus" (Foreigners Out); a police force uncertain or perhaps even unwilling to move in to defend the foreigners' hostel; and finally, the baying victory of the mob as the inhabitants were herded out to an old army barracks to find a travesty of the asylum they came here to seek — behind a barbed wire fence.

In Germany and in the foreign media, this has been presented as purely the work of "neo-Nazis", a term considered synonymous with "skinhead" and taken to signify the disaffected, impoverished young underclass taking out its frustration on outsiders. In other words, someone else's children, not ours.

This is the view taken by most eastern Germans because it distances them from the horror of what is happening. It is embraced by the foreign and west German media, which have an enduring appetite for pictures of short-haired youngsters giving one-arm salutes.

In the case of Rostock, this is a grave mistake. For it is not the malevolent energies of the 300 pasty-faced neo-Nazis which turned a night of protest into a four-day orgy of violence, but the active support of several thousand spectators of all ages, and passive acceptance of events among ordinary citizens of Rostock.

This is the furthest that post-war Germany has gone down the road to brutality: not just because of the extent of the terror (the left's running battles of 1968 and the anarchist demonstrations in west Berlin in 1987 were no picnic) or because of the focused hatred (attacks on foreigners' hostels are now so frequent as to barely merit reporting), but because of the range of people involved.

We have become so used to scenes of rampaging skinheads, particularly in the soulless urban areas of eastern Germany in the past two years, that we seem loathe to open our eyes to the change among the actors. And it is now a very wide social cast.

Listen to this stream of hatred from people taking part in a television studio discussion yesterday. "They are not people, they are swine. They fornicate on the grass and piss in our doorways." Or: "I have nothing against foreigners but these are gypsies." Or: "They are infringing German morality. They make our society dirty and they have to be shown the way out — with the boot if necessary."

There was not an unemployed skinhead among them. The first speaker was a

neat 19-year-old, with an apprenticeship in a small factory. The second was a town hall clerk in his forties and the third was a rosy-cheeked *hausfrau*.

Of course, conditions on Rostock's Lichtenhagen estate, are those in which violence easily fomented: the shortage of work, leisure facilities and self-esteem in these areas are standard contributory factors.

However, Rostock's rioters have enjoyed support unparalleled on the streets of Germany since the Third Reich. The atmosphere in the run-up to the nights of violence has been like a street party, with vendors selling beer and sausages to sustain the participants.

Not only is there widespread support for draconian tightening of the country's liberal and often-abused asylum laws, but ordinary Germans now appear to be prepared to support violence to achieve that aim.

Lothar Kupfer, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's Christian Democrat interior minister, is facing dismissal after he expressed "a certain understanding" for the violence and spoke of the refugees "releasing aggression in their

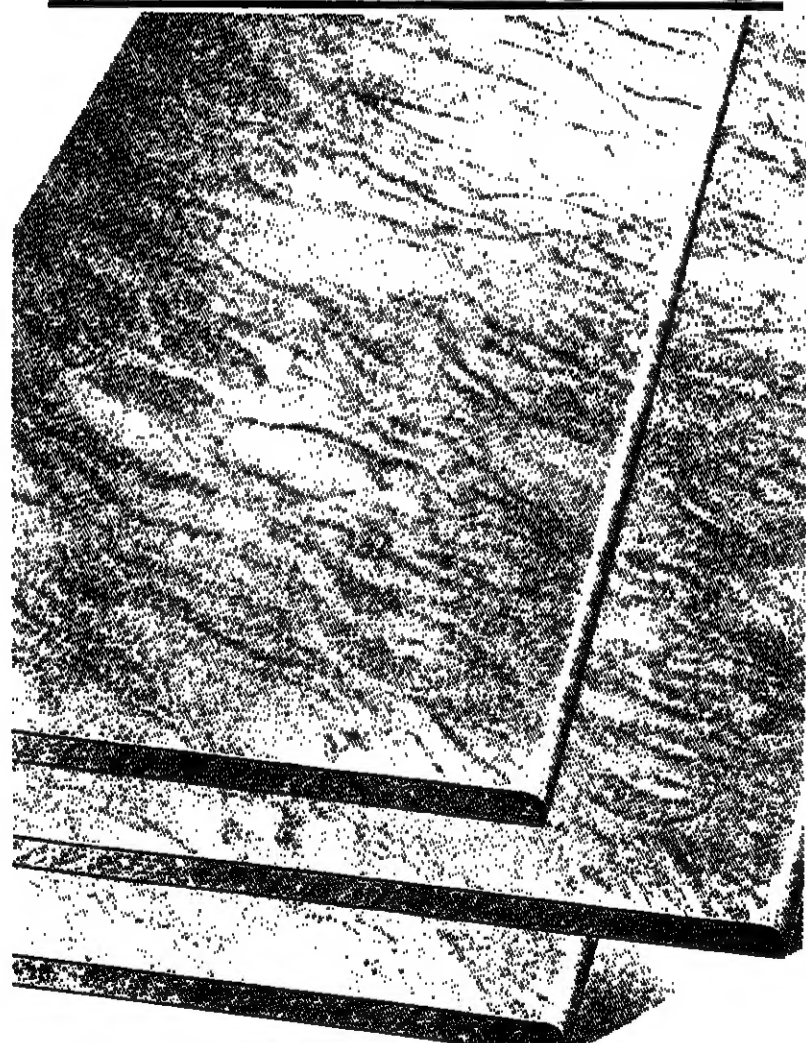
German neighbours". His ill-chosen words may in fact have done the country a favour by demonstrating what many educated, influential Germans really think about foreigners. A survey by RTL television suggested that four out of ten Germans did not view the acts of the mob in Rostock as criminal.

A further weekend of unrest in Rostock appears to be guaranteed, with 10,000 anti-fascists planning to march there. Whether they are motivated by concern for foreigners or the desire to reenact the 1930s street battles is a moot point, but the result will be bashed heads galore and a further polarisation of German society.

Germany's asylum policy must now be overhauled — even more quickly than Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, had intended. Unpalatable as it may seem to give in to demands pressed with iron bars, the government now has no choice.

But regulating asylum is only part of the solution. It is foolhardy to expect that the genie of hatred can be ushered back into the bottle by the introduction of asylum quotas. This is becoming a society in which it is the norm to hate dark-skinned foreigners; how many of them there are is a secondary consideration. The task of Germany's wiser politicians, educators and parents is to face up to the extent of racism in their country and the siren appeal of slogans they thought belonged to the past.

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Woman to do battle against the Mafia

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

LILIANA Ferraro, who is to succeed Giovanni Falcone, the assassinated anti-Mafia magistrate, as director-general of penal affairs at the justice ministry, has a reputation for volcanic energy and determination, qualities she will need if she is to continue his role in galvanising the efforts of the state to combat the Mafia.

Signora Ferraro, 48, has been a magistrate for 23 years and has spent much of that time in an administrative role at the justice ministry. She was head of Falcone's secretariat for 18 months and has been standing in for him since he died three months ago when a bomb exploded under his car on the way from Punta Raisi airport to Palermo. She is the first woman to occupy the post.

"I am taking a terrible weight on my shoulders," Signora Ferraro said. "I don't know whether the honour or the burden is greater. I worked with Falcone for ten years. Now that I am receiving his inheritance I try to remember how he acted, how he achieved his objectives, because I intend to continue his work in a satisfactory manner."

Signora Ferraro said she would pursue the strategy drawn up by Falcone to make the war against crime more incisive by promoting new legislation, improving the organisation of the country's judicial offices and monitoring efficiency more closely. "If I said I was not afraid, I would be lying. I am aware of the fact that we are living through a



Ferraro: living through a period of great risk

period of enormous risk," she said. Signora Ferraro is not new to danger. During the 1970s she was responsible for liaison between the justice ministry and General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa of the carabinieri, who masterminded the defeat of the Red Brigade. "It was a terrible period. I saw so many people killed."

She then moved to the ministry's legal office, handling relations with the Council of Europe and the European Community on issues such as extradition and the battle against terrorism. More recently she has been involved in the war against organised crime. She was responsible for the security of key magistrates and oversaw the construction of Palermo's fortified courthouse, where the big Mafia trials of the 1980s were held.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN agrees on poison weapons ban

Geneva: A long-awaited treaty banning the use, possession and manufacture of chemical weapons has passed one of its final hurdles on the way to adoption by the United Nations.

The treaty, on which negotiations began 24 years ago, was agreed by a committee of the 39-nation Conference on Disarmament on Wednesday evening. Several countries expressed reservations about it, claiming that its inspection and verification provisions had been watered down and were open to abuse. (Reuters)

Poles protest

Warsaw: About 4,000 workers from the strike-bound Ursus tractor factory marched on government offices to protest over low wages. The protest was organised by Solidarity. (AP)

Poll race starts

Bucharest: The National Salvation Front, the senior partner in Romania's ruling coalition, registered Caius Dragomir, 53, as its candidate for the September 27 presidential elections. (Reuters)

Strike hurts

Athens: Thousands of striking workers protesting against the conservative government's austerity programme brought Greece to a standstill causing power cuts and halting public transport. (Reuters)

Moscow nonchalant as rouble plummets

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian rouble dropped almost 20 per cent against the dollar yesterday in its most spectacular fall for several months.

Russian officials, however, dismissed talk of the currency's imminent collapse, citing special factors and arguing that the overall performance of the rouble against foreign currencies had been better than expected. This official nonchalance towards the plight of the rouble, which is now worth less than half a US cent, was accompanied by a show of government confidence in the stability of the Russian economy.

The cabinet decided yesterday to set a budget for the whole of next year and present it to the Russian parliament in October. This year the budget has been set quarterly on the grounds that the speed of economic change made long-term planning impossible. Alekssei Ulyukayev, a spokesman for the government, said that next year's budget envisaged a monthly inflation rate of between 7 and 8 per cent, with an annual internal deficit of around 7 per cent of GDP. The July figures for inflation show a monthly rate of 7.5 per cent. The target set by the International Monetary Fund for this year's internal deficit is 5 per cent of GDP, which it believes Russia can meet.

While the projected figures for next year may fall short of what international financial organisations are likely to require, the fact that the Russian government is mak-

ing annual forecasts at all, even at this relatively early stage, suggests a belief that the wild price changes of this year are largely over. In his address on the anniversary of the August coup, President Yeltsin gave a similar impression, saying that after a difficult autumn, the situation would improve next year.

Several reasons were advanced for yesterday's fall in the rouble at the Moscow Interbank currency exchange from 168 to the dollar to 205. Some attributed the fall to the small amount of hard currency offered for sale and a rush by Russian firms to acquire currency before the introduction of new export licences and duties on September 1. Others linked it to a decline in confidence in the Russian economy generally.

A further view, advanced by Mr Ulyukayev, was that the rouble was only now starting to be treated and behave as a "normal currency". It was only last month that the government abolished all fixed and alternate rates of the rouble and allowed it to float at a single, market rate on the exchange. In the past month the Russian Central Bank has also stopped intervening to support the rouble, and has joined the new commercial banks in bidding for hard currency at the prevailing rate.

The recent decline in the value of the rouble against the dollar should also be seen in the context of the domestic inflation rate. In this context, it has held up remarkably well.

مركز الاعلام

Mortar blast kills three in Bosnian bread queue

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORTARS tore into a bread queue formed during a lull in the fighting in Sarajevo yesterday, killing three people and sending others screaming through the streets.

Mortar rounds exploded later in front of the downtown Pijetel cafe, wounding nine people, two of them seriously. Hospital workers collected the dead and treated the hurt. The two mortar attacks added to the misery of the Bosnian capital, reeling since the weekend under a relentless duel between Serb artillerymen pounding it from surrounding hills and loyalist government troops defending it.

Bosnia's health ministry, reporting on casualties before yesterday's mortar attacks, said 31 people had died and 189 were wounded across the

Bosnian republic in the past 24 hours.

The bread queue tragedy occurred in the morning, a day after the heaviest Serb artillery attack on Sarajevo in weeks; the attack on the cafe came a few hours later. The bakery is in the western section of the city near the Marshal Tito barracks. The rounds landed between two lines of people, some waiting for a bus and others for bread. Women ran screaming with children in their arms. Old men and women, tripped over one another, and blood was splattered over the bread being distributed by the authorities.

A similar mortar attack on a bread queue in Sarajevo on May 27 killed 20 people and prompted Muslim negotiators to walk out of the peace talks sponsored by the European Community. The May attack shocked world public opinion and turned many governments against the Serbs.

The mortar attack devastated the Pijetel cafe on a quiet side street in a hillside alleyway above the Old City. The area had been considered safe because of its narrow alleyways. Yesterday's attack on the bread queue was the most devastating single incident in nearly a week of ferocious fighting in the beleaguered Bosnian capital.

Sporadic artillery and gunfire continued in the Bosnian capital in spite of the London peace talks, although without the intensity that has turned parts of the city into an inferno in the past week. Four people were wounded in a mortar attack near the Marshal Tito Barracks, the same part of Sarajevo where Martin Bell, the veteran British television reporter, was injured two days ago.

Serb jets bombed and destroyed a key Croat arms and vehicle factory in the central Bosnian town of Novi Travnik on Wednesday, witnesses said yesterday. Tanjug, the Belgrade-based news agency, said that Croat forces had launched an attack on Serb positions near Trebinje in southern Bosnia. In Sarajevo, up to 30 people have been killed and dozens of buildings gutted by fire each day over the past week, Tanjug added.

The latest casualty figures for the 24 hours to noon yesterday, not including the mortar attack in Centric Vila, were 12 dead and 80 wounded. The figures for the whole of Bosnia were 31 killed and 189 wounded.

Locals directly linked the ferocity of the fighting — causing about twice as many casualties as usual — to the London talks. And they were sceptical that the war would soon come to an end. "The only peace conference we would have confidence in would be one that was held in Sarajevo under last night's conditions," said Vlado, a young Muslim fighter.

Bosnia breakthrough, page 1
Cultural genocide, page 12
Letters, page 13

Muslims fearful of genocide

FROM ALAN MCGREGOR IN GENEVA

BOSNIAN Muslims are convinced they face extermination, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the former Polish prime minister who is the United Nations human rights rapporteur in Yugoslavia, said yesterday. "Their situation is the most dramatic of all."

Croats and Serbs, even if threatened, are conscious they have a state behind them. Eth-

HUMAN RIGHTS

nic cleansing by Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is implemented in a very brutal way. There is a similar policy in Croatia (against Serbs) but much more subtle."

Mr Mazowiecki has just returned from a four-and-a-half day visit to former Yugoslavia with Mautner Markof, head of the UN Human Rights Centre, and Louis Joinet and Bacre Ndiaye, heads of the UN working groups on arbitrary detention and summary executions. The team is preparing a report.

Mr Mazowiecki, 65, said of his visit: "It was short but we have seen a lot, enough evidence, testimony and documents to justify what I'm saying. Human rights do not exist in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

They had been appalled by the amount of weapons visible, particularly the quantity of light arms in Banja Luka. This excessive weaponry served to intimidate, so that people signed papers giving up their property before being permitted to flee.



Head to head: Lord Carrington arguing with President Tudjman of Croatia at the London conference yesterday. The conference is turning out to be one of the most bad tempered ever held in the capital

Tempers flare over the war nobody knows how to stop

FROM MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

EVERYONE seems angry about something at what must be one of the most bad-tempered conferences ever held in London: the seating, the speaking order, the status of the delegations, the aims of the conference and the wording of the documents.

The delegations from former Yugoslavia fear and mistrust one another and each is convinced that the rest of the conference is going up to isolate it. The leaders of minority ethnic groups in the republics are furious at being excluded from the plenary sessions and being made to watch proceedings on closed-circuit television. The opposition parties, peace activists and academics from the region are upset at being kept out altogether, and are holding an alternative "Conference for a Balkan Peace" nearby.

The Europeans are frustrated by their previous failures: the distant powers, such as Japan and China, are baffled



Panic in dispute over his status

LONDON CONFERENCE

by the complexity of the arguments, and the British organisers are weary sick of all the bickering. Everybody is disgusted by the war; nobody knows how to stop it.

The Balkans begin on the pavement outside the Queen Elizabeth 2 conference centre. Groups of demonstrators, each waving their messages of hate, jeer every time a rival group comes near. "EC blackmail is no solution," say the Serbs. "Stop media lies. Tell the truth," their banners say. The entire crisis, they insist, is "manufactured in Germany".

Almost within spitting distance are the blazing-eyed Albanians from Kosovo, passionately denouncing their Serbian oppressors as they chant "Free Kosovo". One critic denounces the British hosts: "Go on Major, threaten them with another conference," his notice reads.

At the conference, Lord Carrington delivered a historical lecture on why the Balkans were so ungovernable and followed that with a denunciation of those who did not keep their word. Lawrence Eagleburger, the acting American Secretary of State and former ambassador to Belgrade, was also stung into a sharp defence of his Yugoslav entanglements after George Kenney, head of the department on Yugoslav affairs, quit with some tart accusations that the conference was a charade.

Perhaps the only note of reconciliation and humanity came from two Jewish outsiders, Elie Wiesel, the American

Nobel prize winner, and Israel Singer, the secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress. Mr Wiesel, a concentration-camp survivor, was eloquent in his denunciation of the detention camps; so much so that Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, promised to empty Serb-controlled camps immediately. But promises, alas, do not necessarily mean action.

Status inevitably caused a fuss on the first day. What exactly was the diplomatic standing of the unrecognised rump Yugoslav delegation? Would a man such as Milan Panic, the new prime minister from California, have official status? "He will sit behind his own nameplate. It will simply say Slobodan Milosevic," said a hapless British official, his faux pas inadvertently summing up the real relationship between the two men, who soon fell to public squabbles about which of them could really speak for Yugoslavia.

By the second day, when everyone had got his set speech on the record, the real bagging began. Documents flew around with the rumours. There were early reports that Yugoslavia would recognise Croatia but, since nobody recognises Yugoslavia, that threatened to keep the lawyers tied in knots for hours.

A draft on the key statement on Bosnia had all the right phrases on a ceasefire, heavy weapons, a possible international peacekeeping force and inhuman expulsions of civilians. But a word here, a phrase there were enough to keep tempers on the boil.

It was that sort of conference.

Aid workers attack Serb police state

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN ZAGREB

UNITED Nations relief officials here have criticised the restrictions against non-Serbs in a town in Serb-controlled Bosnia, saying that the moves were "designed to make it virtually impossible for Muslims and Croats to stay in their homes."

A document issued by the municipality of Celina, a translation of which has been obtained by The Times, lists the harsh restrictions on non-Serbs which came into effect at the beginning of this month. These include a ban on moving around the town between 4.00pm and 6.00am; on gathering in groups of more than three; on "loitering" in cafes or other public places; on hunting, fishing or swimming in the town's rivers; on leaving the area without the necessary documentation; on using cars and on contacting relatives outside Celina without authorisation.

In a move reminiscent of Stalin's Soviet Union, the document lays down that visits to non-Serb households must be reported and non-Serbs can only communicate through the public telephone at the post office. It also lists a further 34 local people, the majority of whom, judging by their names, appear to be Muslim. These people are "forbidden to contact anyone from the neighbourhood, or from further away, between 06.00 and 24.00 unless they are called to work." The restrictions mean the 34 are under actual house arrest. The

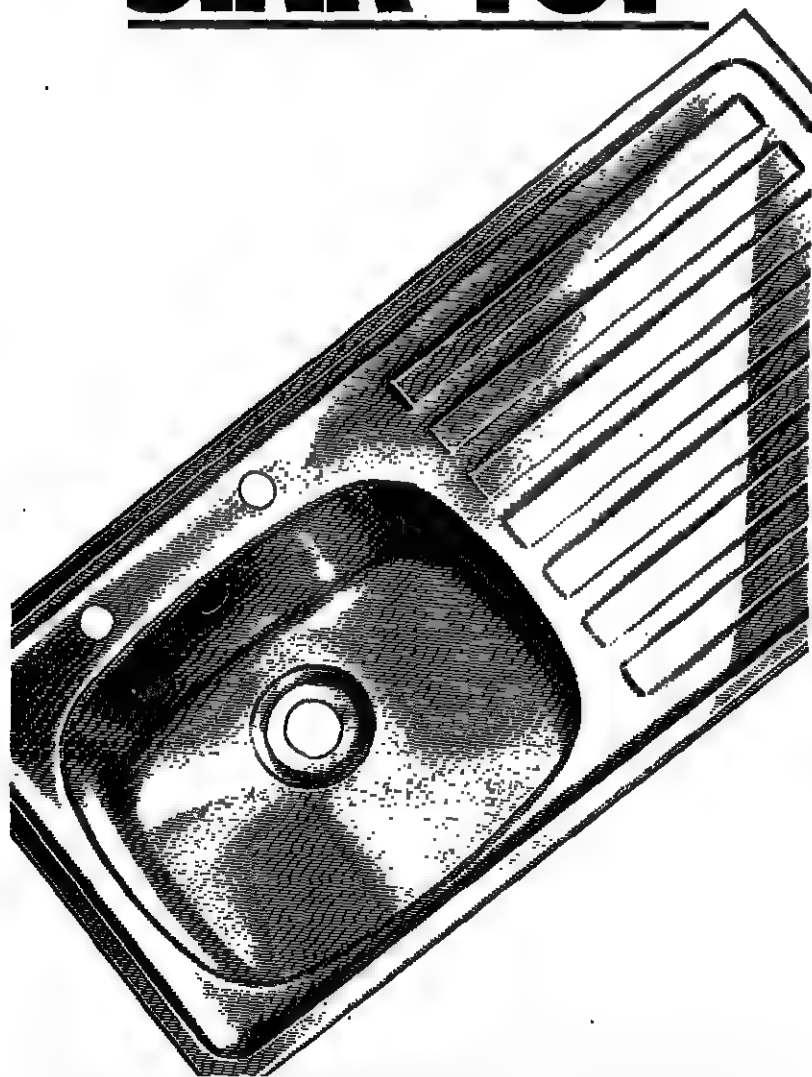
34 have, according to the document, "acted in a negative way... thus harming the Serb population, therefore they are under a special status different from the non-Serbs."

Peter Kessler, the spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Zagreb, said: "These are the strongest restrictions that we have heard of and they are probably worse than apartheid-style rules. But none appeared to be on the same scale as in Celina. Sveto Koracevic, the mayor of Celina, blamed Muslim extremists for provoking Serb extremists. "In this town Serbs and Muslims are equal. The trouble was caused by extremists," he claimed.

Serb militiamen claim that a group of Muslim fighters in the area, wearing paper sashes emblazoned with words from the Koran, were responsible for guerrilla attacks, in which 38 Serbs were killed. "The area has been surrounded and the military command is trying to protect all ethnic groups," an officer said.

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Shadowy irregulars keep alive hopes of their city

THE hero of the hour in Sarajevo is a former detainee called Juka. He commands a few thousand young Muslims, some of them petty criminals, who form the very core of the Bosnian resistance. It is these soldiers, dressed in black overalls and gym shoes, who are battling street by street in the Sarajevo district of Ilidza.

Other units of the Bosnian army are beginning to crumble: the number of deserters and draft-dodgers is swelling. Croatia is turning them back at the Bosnian-Croatian border, refusing to accept deserters as refugees, and in every Croatian city the military police are checking the documents of Bosnian youths. The Bosnian units that are holding up are those supported directly by the so-called "black legionaries" of Croatia — ultra-rightwingers who fought hard for Vukovar and eastern Croatia last year. The leader of Croatia's Party of Rights, Dobroslav Paraga, says that he has more than 6,000 men fighting in Bosnia.

It was always an uneven struggle. The Serbs inherited not only the weapons and many commanders of the former Yugoslav army but also the communication system.

The Sarajevo counter-offensive against the Serbs has an unlikely leader, writes Roger Boyes, East Europe correspondent

The early summer blitzkrieg in eastern Bosnia was easy for them, so easy that some Serb soldiers rounded up Muslim civilians and tortured and raped them. In a contested advance there is no time for such atrocities.

The order of battle in Bosnia is as follows. Serb units have 60,000 regular troops on the spot organised into seven corps. They are led from a heavily fortified command centre north of Sarajevo, the former property of the Yugoslav army. In addition there are 35,000 irregulars — the Chemiks — who are, theoretically at least, under the command of the regular army. The Serbs have 100 tanks in the republic, 100 heavy artillery pieces, and about two thirds of the 200,000 tonnes of munitions that were stored in Bosnia by the Yugoslav army.

The Bosnian side has about 30,000 regulars and an equivalent number of irregulars,

including Juka's men. They are helped by at least 35,000 Croats from different units. They have no aircraft, only a small number of artillery cannon and rely mainly on light weapons and mortars.

If morale holds, the Muslim force could play an important part in the political bargaining process. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, who earlier this week stormed out of the London peace conference, returning some hours later, wants to draw a Beirut-style green line down the centre of Sarajevo. The Bosnians, in their counter-offensive, are challenging this division and are trying to win back the Ilidza suburb which before the war had 68,000 inhabitants — roughly 43 per cent Muslim, 37 per cent Serb and 10 per cent Croat.

If one controls Ilidza, one controls access to the airport. That is crucial for both sides. Sarajevo airport has become the symbol of the Bosnian

state: as long as it is open, the state survives as an administrative entity.

Much hinges on this counter-offensive and the military advantage may just be swinging towards the Muslims. The Serbs undoubtedly have the ability to wage a long war — some military analysts say they could fight for another two years. But their supply and communication routes are weak and exposed. This partly explains why the Serbs prefer to bombard Sarajevo after it starts getting dark: the Serb soldiers in the hills are suffering from the extreme heat. Water is being strictly rationed because only limited amounts can be delivered to their artillery positions. Munitions are also being supplied during the daytime while the garrison teams sleep off the night's shelling.

The main supply centre for the Serbs is the military airport at Banja Luka; there are also arms factories and supply depots in the region. Clearly if there were ever to be a Western intervention, Banja Luka would be the first target for air strikes. Bosnian and Croat forces are not strong enough to cripple this centre but they can interrupt the flow of material out of the region.

First, however, the Bosnian army has to be convinced that it is really fighting for something. Without this conviction the counter-offensive will fail. That is the significance of Juka, whose real name is Jusuf Drasin. He cuts a strange figure — broken nose, in his late thirties, he walks with a stick because of a thigh wound but still leads his soldiers into battle. Bosnian television chronicles his adventures with pride but rarely mentions General Sefer Halilovic, who heads the regular army.

Juka's group was the first in Sarajevo to start arming and to set up a communication centre; that was in early spring when the Bosnian political establishment was refusing to believe that the war would spread in their direction. His guns came partly from the criminal underworld but now they tend to be drawn from the stocks of the far-right Croatian militia. Perhaps most significantly, his troops are not solely Muslims — they include Croats and even Bosnian Serbs and thus mirror the ethnic structure of the old, disintegrating Bosnia. As long as Juka fights, the people of Sarajevo feel that there is a chance for their city.

Directed by Vaughan Williams's rehearsal. He had every note

the fore in Backbeat, about the

you see how?

Why women will desert Bush

Abortion policy could scupper the president, says Conor Cruise O'Brien

Millions of women who usually vote Republican are going to vote for the Democrats next November. Although the state of the economy, and not gender, is at the root of Bush's troubles, his folly in antagonising the women of America will seal his fate.

There are just ten Republican congresswomen. Observers noted that none of them was to the fore at the Houston convention. And no wonder. Seven of them are on record as being pro-choice on abortion and were therefore implicitly repudiated when the convention silently adopted a pro-life platform. And even the three others — who apparently oppose abortion-on-demand — must have gagged inwardly as they contemplated the grotesque character of the anti-abortion proposition to which the Republican party committed itself last week.

The Republican party is now committed to imitating the Republic of Ireland, by inserting in the Constitution of the United States an assertion of "the right to life of the unborn". But the Republicans would make the American Constitution even more opposed to abortion than Ireland's. The Irish Constitution qualifies the right to life of the unborn by acknowledging the equal right to life of the mother.

That qualification allowed the Irish Supreme Court, last February, to overturn a High Court decision prohibiting a 14-year-old rape victim from leaving the country for Britain, where abortion is legal. But the Republicans would make their constitutional ban on abortion an absolute. Even a woman whose pregnancy threatened her life would be obliged by law to go ahead and have the baby. This is the kind of single issue on which people feel strongly enough to switch their party allegiance.

The Republican policy on abortion is a political freak, a consequence of the time when President Bush felt that the most important threat to him came from Pat Buchanan on the far-right, and so allowed the platform committee to be packed with right-wing loonies. The resulting platform is so embarrassing that he could not allow it to be discussed at the convention. After a good deal of White House arm-twisting, it was endorsed without debate. Mr Bush is now hoping that the issue will go away, and that women will forget about it. They will not.

Everyone knows that the Republicans have no real intention of trying to amend the Constitution in the manner to which theoretically they are now committed. But that is not the point. American women resent it as an insult. And American women are in no mood to put up with insults in the 1990s. That became clear during the Democratic primaries. In two important races, in major states, a female candidate, running on a strongly feminist platform, came from well

behind to defeat a male front-runner. In Illinois in March, Carol Moseley Brown defeated the Democratic incumbent, Senator Alan J. Dixon. Mr Dixon had supported Clarence Thomas in the Senate hearings in which Mr Thomas was accused of sexual harassment by Anita Hill. And it was on that issue that she defeated Mr Dixon.

Those Senate hearings were also the cause of an upset in Pennsylvania, in April, when Lynn H. Yeckel defeated Lieutenant Governor Mark S. Singel for the Democratic senatorial nomination. Ms Yeckel's target, during her campaign, was not her Democratic rival but the Republican incumbent, Senator Arlen Specter. Mr Specter's cross-examination of Anita Hill had been offensive to many women, and that was Ms Yeckel's main theme. She fought for the right to run against Mr Specter, who is now in deep trouble. A poll

at the time of the primaries showed that one in four Republicans — let alone Democrats — would vote for her. That proportion must be increasing in the aftermath of the convention.

The issue is not silent at this stage of the campaign, but it is a powerful current under the surface. Mr Bush has every reason to avoid the subject, and Governor Clinton has no particular reason to embrace it. Simply by indicating that he is pro-choice he collects the whole of that vote when running against George Bush who is (theoretically) committed to amending the Constitution to criminalise abortion in all circumstances. And the women's organisations will do Mr Clinton's work for him by spreading the word about that Republican undertaking. It will soon be hurting President Bush.

The Houston convention made a hideous hullabaloo about "family values". If they make that central to their campaign, as so many convention speakers promised, they will be making abortion a relevant topic, and be obliged to emphasise their commitment to it. That would be fatal, for their opponents could then appropriately remind the electorate of the exact nature of that commitment, as unanimously endorsed by the Houston convention. George Bush seems, late in the day, to have sensed the danger, for in his acceptance speech he failed to stress the "family values" his supporters had been raving about. The "family values" of Houston are only a pious cover for unleashing sleaze on Mr Clinton's head, but the debate about them could take a disconcerting turn for the Republicans.

In this and several other domains, George Bush's troubles are self-created. He was excessively preoccupied with appeasing his own right wing, of which the pro-life lobby is a powerful and noisy faction. He forgot that the pro-choice people (in various shades) are much more numerous than the pro-lifers, though much less noisy. But it is numbers, not noise, that will count in November.

Sportsmen should not be punished for expressing controversial views, argues Peter Barnard

Free speech in sport

Yet sportsmen who express controversial views are summoned to kangaroo courts, at which the truth or otherwise of their claims is rarely examined. The hearings are held in camera, and the evidence is not published. Those charged are often guilty of a single offence, that of opening their mouths. Indeed, a footballer who calls another "dirty" in public is at least as likely to be fined as the player he accuses.

Cricketers and footballers particularly have in their contracts a clause forbidding them from talking to the media without permission. Often, proposed articles have to be submitted to a sports governing body, or to the club or county. The fact that Lamb said what he did is not the point; there arises no question of loyalty to one's employers, a matter which has a legitimate place in a contract. The point is that the clause affecting free speech should not be included.

Amazingly, Lamb has been pun-

ished by his county for a statement relating to matches between England and Pakistan. What business is that of Northants? Yet they pronounce while the Test and County Cricket Board and the International Cricket Conference (ICC) stand with hands on hips, as if fielding at third man on a slow afternoon at the Oval.

So far, with typical arrogance, the ICC has simply refused to say why the ball was changed during last Sunday's one-day international, thus fueling the very suspicion that Lamb voiced. Yesterday the ICC again delayed a pronouncement on the ball switch. A further suspicion must be that the ICC has been shaken out of its inertia by Lamb and others. Perhaps cricket followers who waited nearly five days — time enough to play a Test match — for an explanation should have a whip-round for Lamb, although the *Daily Mirror* seems to have handled that. But history offers

plenty of other candidates.

A little over 20 years ago, I unearthed a widespread racket in tickets for FA Cup Finals. The Football Association had announced action against a few players, all from the lower divisions, none famous, who had sold tickets given to them for nothing. A prominent England forward of the time admitted to me on the record that he too had passed on a few tickets. The FA dug no deeper; they simply punished the player for telling the truth.

Sport is a cosy world. Not only did my modest exclusive cost me friends in the game, it also cost me friends in sports journalism. In their sea of metaphor, I had rocked the boat. But sport belongs to the people who watch it as much as those who play it. They are entitled to know, but that entitlement is honoured mainly in the breach by the sporting authorities. Sport knows what is good for us. But

sport shoots itself in the foot, for had the ICC explained at the time why the ball was changed on Sunday, Lamb's article would almost certainly not have appeared.

Obviously cheating is deplorable, but such accusations are not exactly earth-shaking. There are cheats in sport at every level. At school more than 30 years ago I was taught by the son of a minor counties player how to make small grooves in the face of the ball so as to knock the shine off the ball. I did not use this knowledge, but others did and perhaps still do.

Cheating tends to prosper in an atmosphere of mother-knows-best cosiness. English cricket at last appoints a professional manager, but in other respects it lives in the 19th century. The way a game is run is as much a measure of its health as the way it is played. Attitudes do matter, accountability is important. The fact that Rachel Heyhoe-Filtz, as good a bat as many in county cricket, cannot become a member of the MCC is not some jolly amusing example of English eccentricity. It is a scandalous example of sport's patronising attitude to its very lifeblood.

This is cultural genocide

Serbs are deliberately destroying Bosnia's mosques, says Roger Boyes

The destruction of Sarajevo's 19th-century town hall and the burning of priceless manuscripts in the Bosnian National Library reveal the hidden heart of darkness in the cruel Balkan war. After centuries of intertwined cultures, one ethnic group is trying to wipe out another: not merely its soldiers or civilians, but its memory. The Serbian prison camps, deplorable as they may be, do not deserve the label "genocidal", but the deliberate shattering of churches, mosques and libraries — the living history of a nation — is a form of cultural genocide.

Islamic culture is suffering most. Bosnia-Herzegovina was a model of hard won tolerance between Orthodox Serbs, Roman Catholic Croats and Muslim Bosnians. Every city, Sarajevo and Mostar among them, presented a spectacular skyline of minarets and church steeples. Nowadays mosques are favoured targets for Serbian artillery. The minaret of Sarajevo's Magribia mosque, one of the oldest Islamic prayer houses in Europe, is a ruin. The first that raced through the bazaar quarter, the Bas-carsija, also swallowed up the Ferhadija mosque.

Many of the mosques being battered by night were built in the 15th and 16th centuries. When the Turks invaded Bosnia around 1400, they offered protection to those Bosnians who were willing to swear allegiance to the Islamic rather than Christian faith. The Bosnian ruling class quickly obliged as a means of keeping their estates, and some of the peasantry followed suit. But other farmers resisted, and stuck to either the Roman Catholic or Orthodox churches. So there were two Slav traditions in Bosnia: one Muslim, aristocratic and metropolitan; the other Christian and rural. The result was that a great deal of money was made available for mosques, religious schools and merchant houses. They survived the shift from Turkish to Austrian occupation, survived the first world

war, survived the Germans and now, in a frenzy, they are being flattened.

The symbols of the old, more tolerant order were churches and bridges. Ivo Andric, the 1961 Nobel laureate for literature, wrote a novel set in Visegrad with its 16th-century stone bridge across the River Drina, which became a metaphor for the successful mix of cultures, of Catholics, Orthodox and Muslim believers. In this summer's Serbian invasion of Bosnia, Visegrad was one of the first towns to be seized and "ethnically cleansed". The bridge survives, but now it symbolises division rather than harmony.

Graceful Mostar, in western Herzegovina, did not escape so easily. The Muslim quarter has been destroyed. The large 15th-century mosque has been wrecked, as has the modern Roman Catholic cathedral. Headstones of Muslim tombs have been splintered; and the stone panels, inscribed with Arabic prayers, which were once part of the mosque's outside wall, are now part of the street debris. Six of Mostar's seven bridges have been blown up. When the Croat forces pushed back the Serbs in the battle for Mostar this summer, they allowed the inhabitants of the city to return. Some angry Muslims immediately set fire to the Orthodox cathedral in blind revenge for their destroyed mosque.

A similar war of cultures was waged last year in Croatia. Dubrovnik today is a sad, wounded city. More than 1,500 historical monuments were damaged or destroyed there in the bombardment. A 122mm mortar shell can kill within an area of 10,000 square metres. In Dubrovnik old town — 50 such squares were exploding daily for weeks on end. It is enough to make a half turn in the middle of a Dubrovnik Street to count the architectural casualties: here a convent built in 1310, there the cathedral built in 1713 and a bit further on the ruins of a well built in 1444. There are no military



installations in Dubrovnik, no excuse.

Croatian Catholic churches are slowly being rebuilt, but one can see photographs in Zagreb that chronicle their fate during last year's Serbo-Croat war. The first picture shows the Church of St Lawrence in Perinja on September 7, 1991. Shells had gouged holes out of the main square tower. The next, taken on September 15, shows damage to

the spire. The final frame, dated September 17, shows one side of the tower blasted away. Serb commanders argued, when they bothered to explain at all, that church towers could house snipers. But the destruction of St Lawrence and dozens of other 18th-century churches tells a different story: the systematic elimination of Croatian historical landmarks.

This is another dimension of

ethnic cleansing. The premise of the London peace conference is that this sinister practice can be stopped and reversed. People herded out of their villages at gunpoint should be allowed to return as soon as the international community can work out a way of protecting them. The process may take years, but at least it seems a feasible goal to Western negotiators. The Serb occupiers, however, are working on a different plane altogether. Why else blow up mosques, destroy libraries and trample on ancient cemeteries? They are moving fast to make their occupation permanent. Soon, when there are no more mosques left in Bosnia, they will even be able to rewrite history and declare that the natural religion of the country is the Orthodox faith. Welcome to Greater Serbia.

At the end of the 20th century, it cannot be in the interests of the Orthodox religion that Catholic churches and Muslim mosques are being bombed. Indeed, it is this *Kulturkampf* that has driven Islamic states to such an anti-Serbian rage that they are discussing how to break the United Nations' arms embargo and ship guns to the Bosnian army.

All three churches have an important influence on the views and behaviour of the men on the battlefield, so why are they not co-operating to bring peace in the Balkans? The Serbian Orthodox church took a small step recently by declaring itself opposed to the military policies of Slobodan Milosevic. Yet the church is as committed as ever to the political vision of a Greater Serbia. The Vatican has also entered the fray, by recognising Bosnia-Herzegovina, so distancing the church from Catholic and Croat politicians who want to partition Bosnia.

But for the most part, the local clergy are sitting firmly in their national camps. Not so long ago, the churches lived together more or less successfully in Bosnia, and there seems no good reason why they cannot start to build bridges — literally, by replacing the elegant stone bridges that have been shelled and blown up.

...and moreover ALAN COREN

I am sitting here, at the prime corner table of the Cafe du Midi, sipping my second double espresso of the very early morning and watching the Provencal sun rise behind the little crenellated turret of the *mairie* across the village square, and it is not altogether unpleasant, listening to far cocks crowing and near bees humming, as the shopkeepers' hoses sluice the pavement and cyclists wobble through the spray on their way to work. I do not have to do. And I am even happier that I have arrived early enough to bag the prime corner table, because Susan Hayward and Dana Andrews are here beside me, and I shall be able to spot everyone else making for the Cafe du Midi as soon as they turn the corner.

That is an important factor, if you are trying to get rid of Susan Hayward or Dana Andrews.

I have been trying to get rid of them for three days now. They are both in a little oblong box, whither they were convened for the purpose of sharing a rather superior weepie in which Dana noses her bomber into the ground, leaving Susan to bring up their illegitimate daughter by entering into a doomed *marriage de convenance*, ie hitting the sauce, sleeping around, sobbing a lot, ultimately losing the long-suffering jerk prepared to give her hapless by-blow a surname, and generally having the sort of rough time women had to have in 1951 if they were going to be able to expiate the fearful Hollywood sin of pre-marital nookie and leave

a thousand Odeons sniffling as the ubiquitous theme-tune rose to an irresistibly poignant crescendo. Not a bad tune, as a matter of fact, in this case, for though the lyrics of the eponymous *My Foolish Heart* would instantly bring the most arthritic set of toes to quivering life, the melody has lingered on for 40 years, and may still be found issuing from the better class of saxophone wherever jazz buff foregather, mucked about of course yet sturdy enough withal to stir nostalgic stumps.

And if all that sounded like a sales-pitch, forgive me when you have been trying to offload a turkey for three whole days, huckstering entry the soul. For the Cafe du Midi is where English expatriates, both permanent and tourist, congregate to trade videos; because despite foolishly declared intentions to spend the untanning evenings in finally mopping up Proust or attending *al fresco* Vivaldi recitals or even watching domestic television to, of course, improve their French (an unlikely result, given that it consists mainly of game-shows involving nerds shrieking inexplicable argot, academic discussions involving nerds shrieking inexplicable argot, or dubbed American soaps where the anglophone viewer becomes transfixed by the attempt to read lips), everyone down here finally succumbs to buying a VCR and swapping tapes either brought or sent from the old country.

Now, usually, I have good stuff

to trade, particularly with the perennial lot whose absentee tongues hang out for *Jeeves* and *Wooster* or *Morse* or anything else of a superior note, especially when it contains the added bonus of country piles, straw boaters, Oxford colleges, unofficial English roses, and all the other resonant gubbins likely to implore the passing tribute of an expatriate sigh. But this trip pressed for packing time, I grabbed the first cassette that came to hand, and though I have been hawking it hard, nobody wants it. Day after day I trudge down here to the Cafe du Midi and set out my meagre stall. I simmer ferociously at the gathering crocodile like a clapped-out tart in a Reeperbahn window, but they will not be fished.

It is most dispiriting. I watch all the others gleefully swooping, say, *Singin' in the Rain* for a 3-hour compendium of LA Law. I hear them calling "Anyone for six *Roseanne*s?" and see the Oval Test waved in eager response, but the closest I have ever come to a deal was a woman with an *Eldorado* anthology which I should, God help me, gladly have taken off her had another soaphead not come by and stuck a swatch of *East-Enders* under her nose. And perhaps the worst part of it all is having to come home yet again to a hungry family lined up crying, "What have you brought us, Daddy Bunting?" Only to have to shake my head and toss Susan and Dana back on their lonely shelf.

Secondhand slippers

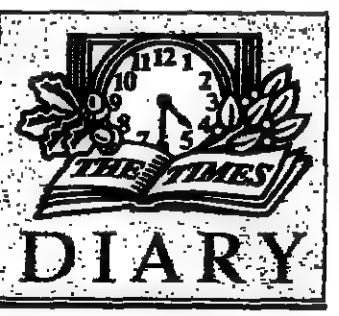
AS IF the royal family did not have enough to contend with, the author Nick Dobbs has alleged that members of the family have sunk to hawking official gifts for profit. The claim led to raised eyebrows yesterday, yet no one was prepared to deny that it happens. Dobbs says that while researching his book *To Play the King* (which is shortly to be televised by the BBC), he discovered that certain royals have been "selling gifts for hard cash, sometimes only for a few pounds".

According to Dobbs the items most frequently sold are designer clothes, in some cases frocks worth several thousand pounds. They are donated to the younger members of the family by designers grateful for any publicity.

In his book, Dobbs portrays the fictitious but hapless Princess Charlotte — who is habitually late for everything but meals — being confronted with the evidence. A former flatmate purchases the princess's cast offs, an Oldfield evening dress and an Yves St Laurent suit, for £1,000.

Buckingham Palace refused even to deny that the scene has any basis in reality, issuing only a terse "no comment" last night. But the fashion industry considers that the practice is not unknown, and the Italian designer Versace for one is rumoured to offer clothes to various royals.

Viscount Linley and his new girlfriend, Serena Stanhope, were recently photographed in *Hello!* magazine wearing Versace outfits. One of Britain's best known female designers says: "The French fashion houses are known for giving free clothes to the royals. That is fair enough, but royalty represents



Britain, and they should at least wear British-designed clothes." The Duchess of York, in particular, has a penchant for famous Parisian fashion houses.

Much of the industry clammed up when approached for comment yesterday. Of the record, several industry sources confirmed that while Princess Diana is well-known for giving cast-offs to her sisters, friends, staff and ladies-in-waiting, other royals are not so generous. The transactions appear often to be organised by fashion expert Jenny Balfour, who regularly recycles royal clothes. She operates from her Belgrave home, and has an exclusive shop in Brighton where one-off designs which have graced the backs of recession-hit royals are known to change hands. Discreet as ever, she was yesterday unavailable for comment.

What's this from BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*? Four husbands are interviewed about whether bigamy is a good idea and one declares: "It depends on the wife you have got. If she is an excellent housekeeper but ugly than you need others." Jenni Murray, the current presenter, who recently described marriage as a form of "legal prostitution", can relax. The interviews were conducted by Mary Stocks in the 1950s, and are being broadcast as part of BBC radio's 70th anniversary celebrations.

French recipe

DOWNING STREET is taking the French opinion polls very seriously indeed. Press officers have already prepared a first draft of a statement in the event of the French voting "Non" to the Maastricht treaty. The statement will be ready for issue on September 21, the day after the referendum.

Yet given Britain's presidency of the EC, John Major will also be expected to make an important policy statement on the hoof about the implications for the future of the EC. This is proving more troublesome, and the best brains in both Whitehall and Brussels have already



been asked informally to come up with ideas.

As to the implications for sterling, commentators are already suggesting that it could provoke the biggest financial storm since 1931, when Britain abandoned the gold standard, sterling was devalued and the Labour government fell. There is an ominous coincidence about the date, too. It was on September 21 some 71 years ago that the crisis forced the abandonment of the gold standard.

Loyal post

NORMAN LAMONT'S plan to hire a new economics adviser with close links to the City is not going as well as he had hoped. City analysts are not exactly falling over themselves to work for the chancellor. Now Lamont is hoping to poach a fellow minister's adviser.

Top of his shortlist is Jeremy Mayhew, adviser to Peter Lilley. Mayhew is certainly loyal, as Bill Robinson, a key member of the chancellor's kitchen cabinet, can confirm. Robinson recently sat through a mortifying lunch with Mayhew and the directors of Taylor Woodrow. The lunch for ministerial special advisers and Tory party researchers was going well until the host, Peter Drew (then company chairman) criticised the government's economic policy.

While Robinson made polite political noises, Mayhew took strong exception to the astonishment of other guests. He berated Drew, whose company is a generous benefactor of Tory causes yet has not been immune to the recession, insisting that all is well, and that anyone who suggests otherwise is a traitor. He then departed, leaving Robinson to soothe Drew. Loyal he may be, but whether Mayhew is the man to build better relations between Lamont and the boardrooms is another question.

This week, Ray Swinburn of Kirkby Moorside in Yorkshire reported his telephone out of order. BT's York office, with commendable promptness, wrote the following day: "We have fully investigated the fault which you reported. We have tried to phone you to confirm this, but without success. If you feel that you still have a problem with this line, don't hesitate to call us free of charge." Most considerate. Except that the line remains stubbornly out of order.

150 000 000



BUSH CLEARS THE SKY

The best that can be said for the allies' "no-fly" air exclusion zone over southern Iraq is that it keeps up the pressure on President Saddam Hussein. Otherwise its effect is almost entirely symbolic. Few Shia lives will be saved by the grounding of Iraqi helicopters. Few allied lives will be at risk. The operation will be relatively cheap. It will not cause the dismemberment of Iraq or lead to a break-away Shia state in the marshes. It may increase dissatisfaction in the Iraqi armed forces with a dictator who has again brought humiliation to his country. Or it may merely strengthen Saddam's malign grip.

The reasons why the allies are enforcing a no-fly zone on Iraq are all too obvious. It is intended to remind George Bush's critics of his finest foreign policy achievement and thus to boost the chances of his re-election. Increasingly riled by Saddam's cat-and-mouse game with United Nations weapons inspectors, the Americans felt obliged to react to his defiance. A military response is hard. Attacking the various ministries in which tell-tale documents were supposed to be lying around would not only hamper the inspectors' task but risk high civilian casualties. A public relations showdown over the treatment of the Shia population is easier and more humanitarian.

Mr Bush was embarrassed when leaks of the administration's plans appeared on the eve of the Republican convention. Angry denying what the cartoonists ridiculed — dropping bombs to pick up votes — Mr Bush insisted that the sufferings of the Shias had suddenly worsened, and that there was an imminent danger of genocide. Yet the oppression has been going on continuously since the failed Shia uprising at the end of the Gulf war. The main threat to the Shias comes not from the air, but from Iraqi ground forces and Saddam's long-term plans to destroy the marsh Arabs' way of life by draining or even poisoning the waterways that keep them isolated.

The Anglo-American plan was delayed

while the governments concerned explained what they were threatening to do. This explanation was challenged by quibbles about the wording and authority of security council resolutions 687 and 688: urgent humanitarian need was finally cited as the overriding legal justification. The Americans were even more embarrassed by disquiet among their Arab allies. The more radical states such as Syria expressed opposition, and Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey have voiced fears that the action could lead to the break-up of Iraq.

What is now happening is a confusion of interests in the future state of Iraq. That country's neighbours do not want it divided by the 32nd and 36th parallels — the northern and southern lines of the two exclusion zones — into three entities. Turkey does not want an independent Kurdistan. Saudi Arabia fears Iranian fundamentalist influence in any Shia state on its borders. Egypt, struggling against fundamentalism, does not want any Western diktat in the Arab world to inflame anti-Western feeling. Iraq is a state created from disparate entities after the first world war. But even the West, witnessing the traumatic break-up of countries such as Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, does not want a further source of instability in the Middle East.

The most that can be said about the present adventure is that a no-fly order is no more likely to break up Iraq than it is to topple Saddam or save the Shias. But a similar policy has not saved the Kurds from Baghdad's economic blockade. If Saddam moves yet more ground troops and heavy artillery against the Shias, the West will have to decide whether to plunge further into the marshes in defence of the Shias or accept a further reverse at Saddam's hands. So far Britain's involvement is that of a loyal ally rather than a convincing or convinced world policeman. The allies must pray that what was meant as a public relations show will not involve loss of life.

GAMEKEEPING BY POACHERS

Self-regulation of the City of London is failing. The idea that regulation of vested interests by vested interests could ever protect the consumer was flawed from its inception. In the four years since the elaborate network of self-regulatory organisations (SROs) was set up, a succession of scandals has exposed the inherent weaknesses of a system in which financial practitioners are expected to police themselves.

Yesterday the pensions ombudsman lamented his inability to act on behalf of pensioners who are worried that their rights are insecure. Yet the very organisation that is supposed to regulate the pensions industry, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, proved itself unequal to the task when Robert Maxwell swiped £450 million from his pensioners under its nose. The chairman of Iuro subsequently resigned, along with a couple of his staff. Reshuffling the boardroom chairs, however, will not cure the fundamental problem: the City is no longer amenable to self-regulation.

In the old days, when the City was run like a club, a gentleman's word was supposed to be his bond. It generally was. Those who neglected to play by the rules were blackballed. The City was criticised for being too exclusive and uncompetitive. But that very lack of competition allowed the players to refrain from testing the unwritten rules to destruction.

When the City was opened up to international competition in the 1980s, the idea of abiding by the spirit as well as the letter of the rules quickly evaporated. American investment bankers, used to the tough regulation of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), were uncomfortable with non-statutory regulation. In the fiercely competitive climate that followed Big Bang, a sort of moral undercurrent took place. Rules were bent in an effort to win business and fraud flourished.

The mistake ministers made was to assume that a freeing-up of markets could co-exist with a light regulatory regime. The

opposite is the case. In America, renowned for its free markets, the SEC is one of the toughest regulatory bodies. It employs talented and ambitious lawyers and investigators to pursue financial impropriety, and wrongdoers live in terror of being caught. No regulatory body in Britain inspires such fear and awe.

The hope was that SROs would be run by high-minded practitioners with an interest in rooting out those that tarnished their reputation. If financial regulation were simply a matter of catching the corrupt, that motive might be strong enough. But the issues are greier than that. Why for example should Lauto, the life assurance SRO, have an incentive to crack down firmly on salesmen who sell endowment mortgages to people who would be better off with repayment mortgages? All life assurance companies have an interest in maximising their sales of endowment policies, not just the crooked ones. Who then is to protect the consumer who lacks the sophistication to challenge the salesman?

Since the privatisation of utilities, Britain has begun to discover the merits of tough regulation on behalf of the consumer. Sir Bryan Carsberg at Ofwat, for instance, vastly improved the service that customers could expect from British Telecom. These regulators are now the conduit for the citizen's charter. But it would be patently absurd if Ofwat were to be dominated by directors of BT and Mercury, or Ofwat by the water companies. Regulation requires tension between the police and the policed. Such tension can never arise when the two are the same. Under self-regulation, whenever the interests of the consumer conflict with those of the producer, the latter will win.

If Majorism is distinct from Thatcherism, it is in the elevation of the rights and interests of ordinary people. The citizen's charter should be extended to the City. And the only body that can enforce it is a statutory organisation with sharp teeth. Britain needs its own SEC.

GREEN REJOINS THE RAINBOW

The decision by Sara Parkin to stand down from the chair of the Green party's executive may mark the party's death knell. If so, its history will have followed a familiar pattern. European green parties have tended to rise, prosper and wither within no more than a decade. The difference between them lies merely in the stage they have reached in this boom-bust cycle.

The French were late in discovering the political importance of the environment. Their two green parties are still on the ascendant, performing well in this year's regional elections. In Germany, the Greens entered parliament as early as 1982, but the growing split between "fundis" and "realos" eventually disillusioned the party's best-known and most popular activists. In the end, the party fell apart over its opposition to German unification. The British Green party's lifecycle has been much shorter than that of its European counterparts. But the anatomy of its decay is surprisingly similar.

The party did not reach its moment of glory until the 1989 European parliamentary elections, when it attracted 15 per cent of the vote. An opinion poll at the time suggested that as much as 45 per cent of the population might at one stage or another be persuaded to vote Green. But three years after the headlines proclaimed the birth of yet another mould-breaking third force in British politics, decadence has set in. Ms Parkin has now concluded that "the Green party has become a liability to green politics".

The demise of green parties is not simply the result of established parties stealing

green policies. This may be partly true in Germany, where public awareness of green issues has persuaded all established political parties to adopt an extensive range of environmental policies. Generally, the extent to which established parties have taken on green policies has been proportional to how long green parties have existed.

As green parties wither away, their policies have been borrowed even more by the European Community than by national parties or governments. Damage to the environment, at least where its effects transcend national boundaries, is one area where a shift in responsibility to a European level makes sense.

But the increasing importance of the environment in politics may be due less to green parties than to changes in consumer preferences, as evidenced by the surprisingly sudden demise of aerosol sprays and the popularity of the catalytic converter. Politics contributed to this process by giving initially reluctant manufacturers the necessary push, but no more.

Sudden and unexpected changes in consumer taste are also the main reason for treating as futile the long-term forecasts of environmental doom and gloom. The leading zero-growth proponents of the 1970s now accept that some of their previous warnings were too defeatist. They did not take sufficient account of the changes of behaviour that increased environmental awareness would produce. It is entirely appropriate that the collapse of the single-issue Green party should coincide with this recognition.

Call for a British lead in Yugoslavia

From Mrs S. Risaluddin and others
Sir, During its presidency of the EC Britain has a special opportunity to take the lead against the crimes being committed against innocent civilians, including children, women and the elderly, in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The price of inaction is the death, torture, internment and expulsion of thousands more.

We are deeply disturbed by the reluctance of the international community to take decisive action to stamp out "ethnic cleansing". Failure to act is a betrayal of British traditions of tolerance and concern for the persecuted.

The international community should make its central aim the immediate end to the genocide and the restoration of order and authority in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Our government should demonstrate that it is willing and able to ensure that wrong-doers will not enjoy the benefits of their wrong-doing. There is a real risk that the period of Britain's presidency of the EC will go down in history as a time when concentration camps, ethnic cleansing and genocide were once again unleashed in Europe, unchecked by an international community demonstrably unwilling to act against such outrages.

Yours faithfully,
SABA RISALUDDIN,
M. RISALUDDIN
(The Calamus Foundation),
HUGO GRYN, GREVILLE JANNER
(Maimonides Foundation),
ALEX MERUK
(UK-Bosnia Support Group),
MOHAMMED SARWAR
(Islamic Rights Movement Committee),
The Calamus Foundation,
18J Eaton Square, SW1,
August 25.

Bosnian reaction to London talks

From Mr Paul Tyrkovic
Sir, Leaders of Croatia (letter, August 25) and the Bosnian Serbs (August 19) have each stated their case on the underlying causes of the Balkan conflict. I should appreciate the same opportunity, on behalf of the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serbia has increased its territory by 150 per cent in the last 150 years (Kosovo, Sandjak, Vojvodina, Montenegro and now 70 per cent of Bosnia). This has been achieved not only by conquest, but also by sliding down at conferences, with the help of the West.

Since 1918, Serbs have stolen 1,076,685 hectares of land, mainly from the Muslims in the so-called "agrarian reform" of 1921. The Serbian response to the public outcry against this "economic genocide" was to issue bonds, repayable over 40 years, of which so far only 4 per cent have been paid up.

Since April 1992, Serbs have driven out some half million Muslims and Croats, the indigenous population of Bosnia since AD 600, and begun settling Serbs in lands which never belonged to Serbia. To speed up these policies, pro-Serbian secret services in Bosnia-Herzegovina and abroad have been working to drive a wedge between Croats and Muslims. Having achieved their aims, there is now every likelihood that Serbs will topple Milosevic, their president, in order to present Serbia as a democracy.

The killing, conquest and ethnic cleansing are Serbia's preliminaries to their hidden agenda: at the conference now sitting in London. Although the results of the conference may help to dispel some of our anxieties, the West is still treating the aggressor and the victim alike and Western political action is still focused on humanitarian aid, giving the Serbs free rein to get on with their murders. Serbia may even feel able to abandon some of its gains to allow the West to produce an overall "Yugoslav compromise".

The creation of Yugoslavia was a mistake and the chief cause of the present violence. Therefore, no overall Yugoslav solution is acceptable. If a balance of power is to be established in the Balkans, Bosnia-Herzegovina must be firmly drawn into the Western camp. Serbia, as the most aggressive state in Europe, must be disarmed and under no circumstances allowed to establish a Serbian state in Bosnia.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL TYRKOVIC
(Spokesman for the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina),
14 Balzard Road,
Blackheath, SE3,
August 27.

Easier living

From Mrs Doreen Kaufman
Sir, The diner who ordered four double brandies in a Chinese restaurant in Leeds and was shocked by the £140 bill (report, later editions, August 26) might do well to visit Prague. Many restaurants there offer a wide selection of brandies, the best from a crystal and silver decanter at £15 for a "double", usually served in a huge Bohemian goblet.

He will also be pleasantly surprised by the price of the meal: an excellent three-course dinner for two persons costs about the same as the brandy — £15.

Yours faithfully,
DOREEN KAUFMAN,
Ponterina, Park View Road,
Wokingham, Surrey.

Radio 3: timely change, anti-elitism, or terminal decay?

From Mr Brian Whittingham

Sir, Nicholas Kenyon, controller of BBC Radio 3, would seem to be in need of allies ("Why Radio 3 needs change", August 22). I submit that his innovations will be a godsend to those members of the intelligentsia whose memories may be failing them and for whom constant reminders of which programme they are listening to will be most reassuring.

Enthusiasts — and there may be dozens of them — of interminable cricket commentaries will also be profoundly grateful, even if devotees of the old Radio 3 become apprehensive that Mr Kenyon intends to introduce commentaries on other sports.

To combine snippets of music ranging from Gregorian chants through Bach and Beethoven to jazz and Schoenberg, interspersed by repetitious headlines (in lieu of news summaries), all co-ordinated by disc-jockey style announcements, may finally achieve the full demise of the old Third Programme and the creation of a single, all-purpose, classless and essentially non-elitist pot-pourri of general appeal to the undiscriminating.

Yours faithfully,
B. WHITTINGHAM,
8 Alford Close,
Horsham, West Sussex,
August 24.

From Mr Peter Mullen

Sir, Mr Nicholas Kenyon, in seeking to defend his changes to Radio 3 writes of the need "to give time to respond to listener reaction and refine the format". To my mind this is not the language of a controller of music but of the marketing man.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MULLEN,
16 Whin Road,
Dringhouses, York.

From Mr Patric Dickinson

Sir, I was on the staff of the BBC at the conception and inception of the Third Programme. I was actively engaged in planning and producing its programmes of poetry and sometimes drama. Neither your leader (August 24), Mr Kaufman ("A musical turn-off", August 17), nor Mr Kenyon seem to have grasped

that the Third was never conceived of as a "music" programme.

The general idea was to foster all the arts broadcasting could deal with: drama, poetry, talks, academic or of any other creative nature, as well as music — i.e., the Third was based on a general pursuit of quality.

As we know, the emphasis has changed and is changing further; but let neither Mr Kaufman or Mr Kenyon be deceived. The reality will lead to more background listening and more portables on kitchen tables. I recall the late Patrick Humber's aphorism: improvement means deterioration.

Yours etc.,
PATRIC DICKINSON,
38 Church Square,
Rye, East Sussex,
August 24.

From Dr G. C. Cook

Sir, Neither your leading article nor Nicholas Kenyon has attempted to define the "new" audience which the Radio 3 changes are intended to capture. Philistines yes, but I should like more details of those who are considered to be seeking music in the style of Bach's greatest hits.

Which sections of the population require a series of curiously selected news headlines (almost precisely the same on each occasion) no fewer than four times during the course of 61 minutes — 7, 7.20, 7.40 and 8am?

Yours faithfully,
G. C. COOK,
Hospital for Tropical Diseases,
St Pancras, NW1,
August 24.

From Mrs Jocelyn Tobin

Sir, Ronald Forrest (letter, August 21), in reply to Gerald Kaufman's article, asks "Is it not possible to organise a group for the defence of Radio 3?"

We at Voice of the Listener and Viewer exist to do just that and to defend many other good and threatened things on our television and radio.

Yours faithfully,
JOCELYN TOBIN
(Honorary Secretary),
Voice of the Listener and Viewer,
101 Kings Drive, Gravesend, Kent,
August 21.

German example for the UK on monetary discretion

From Professor John R. Sparkes

Sir, At the risk of caricaturing government policy, one of the most striking features of successive policy-makers is their obsession with just one of their economic objectives, to the apparent exclusion of others.

In the 1960s the Wilson government were obsessed with the balance of payments; in the 1970s the Heath government with economic growth; in the 1980s the Thatcher administration with inflation. Major is the same now.

The objectives of balance of payments, growth, inflation and unemployment conflict, and it is folly to believe that the problems they entail ought to be soluble one after another. Yet this attitude persists.

A snap-shot comparison of key indicators for the German and British economies show Germany to have money-supply growth faster than ours, prime lending rates higher than ours, industrial production declining at a higher percentage rate than ours, and the volume of retail sales falling more rapidly than ours.

Yet Germany has a growing GDP while ours is declining. German unemployment and inflation are lower

than ours, and Germany's 12-month visible trade balance is almost as much in surplus as ours is in deficit.

Flexibility with regard to objectives needs to be matched with discretion in the use of policy instruments. Government policy is still much influenced by the monetarist preference for rules over discretion. A fixed exchange rate is a monetary rule, but it conflicts with rules for the rate of growth of the money supply and control of interest rate.

No wonder that even the monetarists are frustrated by government policy. Time was when they would argue that interest rates must be free to vary, in order to compensate for fluctuations in the level of domestic economic activity. In the present climate that means a fall, not the threatened rise consequent on exchange-rate rules.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SPARKES
(Assistant Director),
University of Bradford
Management Centre,
Emm Lane,
Bradford, West Yorkshire,
August 26.

Business letters, page 21

St Paul's Girls' School

From Mr H. W. Palmer

Sir, Lady Warnock ("Trampling on teachers", August 24) need not despair about the future of the teaching profession. Had she got in touch, I could have reassured her that there are no plans to change the policy at St Paul's Girls' School of broadening the curriculum and reducing the number of subjects examined at GCSE.

The governors, who include at present eight experienced academics, and the staff are committed to the school's liberal educational values and tradition of scholarship. St Paul's Girls' School will remain an innovative school.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY PALMER (Chairman of Governors, St Paul's Girls' School),
The Mercers' Company,
Ironmonger Lane, EC2.

From Mr Warwick Hele

Sir, Lady Warnock's statement that the Mercers' Company cannot be expected to be especially knowledgeable about education is ill-informed. The Mercers have been involved in education since John Colet chose them as his trustees in 1509, when he founded St Paul's School.

As high master I knew without question that I could rely on the wisdom of their advice on the school's management. They took a personal interest in all that was going on and their emphasis on excellence went far beyond examination results. Innovation and vision as well as sound judgment have marked their contribution to both the maintained and independent sectors of education.

Yours sincerely,
WARWICK HELE (High Master,
St Paul's School, 1973-86),
Hillside, Hawkesdene Lane,
Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Science on TV

From Mr Michael Attwell

Sir, In his address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Sir David Attenborough warned delegates that from next year "no serious science programmes will be shown on independent television at times that most people will be able to see them" (report, August 25). His concerns clearly relate to the ITV network operating from next year under new franchises, but I offer reassurances on behalf of Channel 4.

Next year, I am commissioning a four-part series about quantum mechanics and a further series about the theory and nature of science, which will bring the ideas and arguments of some of Britain's most distinguished scientists to the public. I am confident that these series, and the planned 20-week series of *Equinox* programmes, will be scheduled at a time accessible to the majority of people.

This year, *Equinox* is broadcast at 7pm on Sundays and *A Brief History of Time*, a one-and-a-half-hour film based on Professor Stephen Hawking's book, was shown at 8.30pm on the Sunday of Bank holiday weekend on May 3.

I hope that Sir David's concerns for science programming on the other commercial channel will prove as groundless as they are on ours.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ATTWELL
(Commissioning Editor,
Science Business and Features),
Channel Four Television,
60 Charlotte Street, W1,
August 29.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

From Mr Aubrey Wilson

Sir, The answer to Mr Forrest's question is an emphatic "yes". When it was decided in the 1950s to reduce investment in cultural broadcasting in favour of more popular materials a powerful group was formed to defend the then Third Programme.

I served under the chairmanship of Peter Laslett, and with the active support of such luminaries as Ralph Vaughan Williams, T. S. Eliot, Bertrand Russell and Laurence Olivier. Known as the Third Programme Defence Society, the group had considerable success in ensuring that cultural broadcasting should be a permanency in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
AUBREY WILSON,
6 Lombard Place, W2,
August 24.

From Mr Stanley Anderson

Sir, I applaud Nicholas Kenyon for his spirited and imaginative efforts to defend Radio 3. Indeed, the new schedule promises something for all of those interested in the arts.

However, until the listening public can be sure that the scheduled programmes will not be cancelled in order to facilitate broadcast of a rain-delayed cricket match his best efforts will come to nothing.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY ANDERSON,
35 Hemsley Road,
South Shields,
Tyne and Wear,
August 23.

From Mrs Philippa Barton

Sir, Changes in the Radio 3 morning and early evening programmes are inept: I find banalities, trivia and chat, constantly reiterated plugs for the day's programmes and snippets linked to them boring and irritating.

Other programmes give news if we want it: local radio gives accurate information about travel and weather at predictable times: chat can be found elsewhere.

So I shall switch off and try Classic FM. Could it be worse?

Yours etc.,
PHILIPPA BARTON,
49 Godfrey Street, SW3,
August 22.

Useful goats

From Mr Robin Pepper

Sir, It is wrong to state that all goats produce cashmere (report "Llamas offer new hope to ailing woolen industry", August 19). Angora goats produce mohair which, like cashmere, is the undercoat. It is not as fine as cashmere but Angora goats score by producing far larger amounts of fibre than either cashmere goats or camels, and it is not contaminated by the coarser top coat hairs which have been eliminated by selective breeding.

Angora goats have the added advantage that surplus males have a potential for meat, the excellence of which has been recognised by your cookery correspondent, Frances Bissell ("Honey, I ate the kids", Saturday Review, November 3, 1990), if not yet by the public at large.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN PEPPER (Chairman),
British Angora Goat Society,
4th Street,
National Agricultural Centre,
Kenilworth,
Warwickshire.

From Mr J. Roper-Evans

Sir, Why, if the average American spends too much, causing the dollar to fall, and if something like 600 French (to extrapolate from the latest Paris opinion poll) dislike the EC enough to wreck the Maastricht treaty, should I be threatened with a higher mortgage?

Yours faithfully,
J. ROPER-EVANS,
The Old Rectory,
Bryn, Abergavenny, Gwent.

Measure for measure

From Mrs John Norbury

Sir, I am concerned to know if Mr Michael Jarvis, the fortunate beneficiary of a sum equal to the cost of 1,000 bottles of gin from the estate of Mr David Hepburn-Scott (Latest Will, August 21), has similar expectations from other friends or relations in respect of the not inconsiderable amount of tonic water that he might need to dilute his gin lake.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL NORBURY,
Morville Hall,
Near Bridgnorth, Shropshire,
August 23.

OBITUARIES

THOMAS ROBSON

Thomas Snowdon Robson, CBE, former director of engineering for the Independent Broadcasting Authority, died on August 6, his 70th birthday.

IN THE latter stages of his career, Tom Robson played a significant role within the European and international broadcasting fraternities in helping to formulate television engineering broadcasting policy. As director of engineering for the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), he encouraged his development engineers during their work on the MAC system (the internationally-agreed transmission system for use with broadcast satellite television services) and championed, with success, the adoption of the system by the European Broadcasting Union. In 1984 he was awarded the Eduard Rhein prize for the MAC development, an award he shared with Professor Bruch, the man who had invented the PAL colour system.

After attending Portsmouth Grammar School, Robson joined the BBC and then served in the technical branch of the RAF during the war. He joined the research laboratories of EMI in 1947 where he worked on the early development of UHF (ultra-high frequency) television transmitters. He joined the Independent Television Authority (ITA) in 1957 as the engineer-in-charge of the ITA's transmitting station at Black Hill in central Scotland. After a short period he moved to the ITA's London office and was the senior authority on television transmitters and as-



PROFESSOR DAVID ABERCROMBIE

Professor David Abercrombie, FBA, phonetician, has died aged 82. He was born in Birkenhead on December 19, 1909.

APPOINTED lecturer in phonetics in the University of Edinburgh in 1948, David Abercrombie went on to establish, within a decade, an outstanding department of phonetics that was to attract academics and postgraduate students from throughout the world. In these earlier years the department was housed in a rather drab basement. But the quality of the teaching that took place there, the ideas that underlay it and the work done to elaborate these ideas into phonetic theory, rose well above that of the surroundings.

Some part of Abercrombie's strength in building up his department came from the traditions of his background and the diversity of his experience. His father, Lascelles, was a distinguished scholar in the field of English literature and a recognised poet. Abercrombie was taught, as a postgraduate student, by Jones and Firth

at University College, and later at the LSE by Malinowski. In Edinburgh he was able, when moulding his own approach, to bring together, in a well-integrated whole, the sound and substantial phonetic training of Jones with the interest in wider linguistic concerns which characterised the work of Firth and Malinowski. In this he was aided by a number of excellent scholars.

To this synthesis he added a deep knowledge of and respect for early writings on phonetics in Britain. This was not just an antiquarian interest — Abercrombie's aim was to demonstrate the values of the earlier tradition and evoke new interest in it — and he took a quiet delight, too, in showing just how often the wheel had been re-invented, especially to pompous re-inventors.

His very special combination of interests and abilities led to a distinctive and cogent programme of teaching and research in Edinburgh, his own lucid and definitive writings being among his key products. He was appointed professor in 1964.

He was a Christian heart, and was ever ready to help others in times of their need, even when he himself was immersed in the stress and bustle of his profession.

He leaves his wife, Ruth, a daughter and son.

RIGHT REV ANTHONY TREMLETT

The Right Rev Anthony Paul Tremlett, former Bishop of Dover, died after a fall in his garden on August 22 aged 78. He was born on May 14, 1914.

TONY Tremlett had the distinction of inspiring a religious vocation among the young as if it were the most natural outcome of life. 12 out of his many ordinands bought him his pastoral staff when he was consecrated Bishop of Dover in 1964.

Yet he was not an evangelist, holding firmly to the traditional Anglican view of the church as being instruments as appropriate for the twentieth century as for the seventeenth.

His talent as a boy singer had been spotted by the local organist and he went to school and sang as a treble in the choir at St George's Chapel, Windsor. His later education was at King's School, Bruton, and King's College, Cambridge, where he found his vocation.

Having trained for the priesthood at Cuddesdon, he was ordained in 1938. A curacy at Northolt was interrupted by the war and he joined the 40th Division as an army chaplain with an emergency commission.

In 1943 he was attached to the 6th Guards Independent Brigade as chaplain to the 4th Battalion, Coldstream Guards. With them he was up with the fighting across northern France, starting in Normandy with the capture of Hill 309.

The brigade was one of the first to reach the Siegfried line and he ended the war in Kiel. Always in or near the front line, administering communion before battle, dealing



with the wounded, dying and dead, "Trubshaw" as the guards officers called him, was mentioned in dispatches for bravery. The war brought many friendships including those of Robert Runcie and Bishop Fabian Jackson, his former vicar who took him as his domestic chaplain to Trinidad in 1946. There he experienced all the vigour and informality of the Caribbean churches.

In 1949 he was appointed chaplain of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and his vocation flourished in transmitting the

urgency and immanence of religious life in the last decade before student unrest changed undergraduate life irrevocably.

A man of catholic tastes, a lover of grand opera, with a sound knowledge of history and the fine arts, he became a familiar Cambridge figure. He had a connoisseur's knowledge of English oak and walnut furniture.

After nine years and with some hesitation, Tremlett came to St Stephen's, Rochester Row, a large London parish categorised by deep

social contrast. His contribution was to the tradition of training curates, which exactly matched his gifts.

His genial leadership combined with the collective style of a large group of curates to create an almost familial atmosphere, which he was sad to leave, despite the unremitting work of sustaining an urban parish at a time when numbers elsewhere were falling steadily.

He served as Bishop of Dover for 16 years. Being less attuned to administrative routine than to a suffragan's other role of looking after the clergy, he made it his primary duty to seek out and help parish priests, many of whom, overworked and, many of them, often isolated in an increasingly irreligious environment.

Perhaps because of his perception of this need, he began to find himself a traditionalist, once the impact of modernist practices disturbed the Anglican church. But he was not a controversialist, rather a robust defender of a long established comforting liturgy.

He was close to both Archbishops Runcie and Ramsey and a good friend of the latter, a former dean of his college. An archbishop is often away on national or international business and Dover carries the diocesan load.

Tremlett's sympathies were wide; he would take on the care of strays and casualties as part of the normal order and his sociability and good humour endeared him to many who rarely even entered a church.

He retired in 1980 to the Cotswolds, travelled widely with old friends, cultivated his garden and, though never married, enjoyed the pleasures of an extended family life.

HIS HONOUR RICHARD BINGHAM

His Honour Richard Bingham, TD, QC, a former Conservative MP and circuit judge, died on July 26 aged 76. He was born on October 26, 1915.

AS A politician Richard Bingham, QC, had firm ideas on crime and punishment. His wish for strong action was disclosed in a Commons debate on the treatment of young offenders when R. A. Butler was home secretary. Butler said he agreed with an official committee which recommended that no change should be made in the law which prevented courts from imposing any form of corporal punishment. Only two MPs from the Tory side on that occasion spoke in favour of bringing back the birch. Bingham was one of them. He said it was unsafe for children and young girls to go out in the streets at night for fear of being assaulted or insulted.

He also saw merit in citizens taking action to bring criminals to justice. In this, he was doing no more than uphold a tradition going back to Saxon times of public involvement in law enforcement, leading eventually to a police force which likes to regard itself as consisting of civilians in uniform. Bingham's involvement, however, was more dramatic. As a judge at Liverpool Crown Court he rewarded four "have-a-go heroes", as they became known, who foiled a gang of robbers. One of the law enforcers, aged



12, got £25 for calling the police, his father and another man got £200 each and a third £100. They had grabbed a robber and his £7,000 haul, forcing his three accomplices to flee empty-handed. Bingham, who was educated at Har-

row and Cambridge, was called to the Bar in 1940 after gaining an MA. He served in the army in France and was among the last to be evacuated from Dunkirk. In 1944 he was mentioned in dispatches in the North West Europe campaign. He was in command of a Royal Artillery battery in Hamburg at the end of the war and was a major in the 59th Medium Regiment RA (TA).

His advent into national politics was preceded by service on Liverpool city council from 1946 to 1949 representing the Alburgh ward. He represented Garston as Conservative MP between 1957 and 1966.

Appointed to the Northern Circuit in 1946, he practised in Liverpool and became a QC in 1958. In 1960 he was appointed recorder of Oldham and also sat as judge of appeal on the Isle of Man before he became a circuit judge in 1972. Bingham thought deeply about the law and the practice of it. His *Cases on Negligence* (1961) had, by 1978, gone into a third edition. He published *Cases and Statutes on Crime* in 1980 and *Crown Court Law and Practice* in 1987. He was a member of the Departmental Committee on Coroners in 1965 and the Royal Commission on Assizes and Quarter Sessions in 1966.

He retired as one of the most senior Northern Circuit judges in 1988. Bingham lived in Gayton on the Wirral with his wife and daughter.

Seicho Matsumoto

SEICHO Matsumoto, one of Japan's most famous mystery writers, died on August 4 aged 82.

Matsumoto was a late starter in his career as a writer, after working as a printer for the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper. In 1952, he won the Akutagawa Prize, the nation's most prestigious literary award, for his work *Araki Kokuji Nikki Den* (The Kokura

Diary). He went on to produce scores of best-selling mysteries.

His works, such as the *Suna no Utsawa* (The Sand Wave) focused on social issues and corruption in post-second world war Japan. He was also a prolific non-fiction author who took a well-acclaimed investigative approach to unsolved crimes and historical mysteries.

Matsumoto was also known as an active social critic, particularly for his opposition to the Vietnam War. Many of his novels were made into films.

APPRECIATIONS

William Taylor

BILL Taylor (obituary, August 25) occupied a prominent supervisory position, first at the Federal Reserve Board and more recently at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at a time when the United States banking system has been under greater pressure than for the past 50 years. This was the US's good fortune. He brought a combination of vision and hard-headed technical expertise that served his country well, notwithstanding the complaints from some US commercial bankers who found the medicine which he administered sometimes hard to take. Through a series of negotiations to strengthen the international banking system — negotiations in which he played a leading part — he never lost sight of his principal objective of building a safer and more secure home for US depositors.

Hard-headedness did not mean hard-heartedness. Bill Taylor never lost his rapid-fire Chicago wit and was a master of the devastating one-liner. He totally lacked pretension and made a habit of travelling on public transport when abroad, believing this gave him a greater feel for what the public were doing and thinking. During the Gulf War he was accused by a German youth on a bus in Frankfurt of supporting a war being fought because of oil. "What would you have us fight over — race?" responded Taylor. This directness and honesty, together with his evident understanding of the technicalities of supervision, inspired great commitment and loyalty from his staff. I saw him address a group of 200 bank examiners at the time of the Maryland Savings and Loan crisis. There were no rhetorical fireworks but, by the time he had finished speaking, those present were ready to tackle

anything, however difficult. Bill Taylor's death is a serious loss to international as well as to US bank supervision. He was an active and positive member of the Basic Banking Supervisors' Committee and was instrumental in its adopting and propagating measures to curb the use of the world's banking system for purposes of drug money laundering. He was always ready to share ideas with colleagues from other countries and was a source of support to others in a profession which has come under increasing attack as the pressures on banks in the free market system have intensified and the demands of the public, politicians and the press have increased.

Hard and long as he worked, his wife and children



were his first priority. His happiest place was to take his family to the White House when he was being appointed chairman of the FDIC. This combination of private occasion and public duty pleased him enormously. It is a great pity he did not live longer to enjoy the opportunities his new position gave him to use his special talents.

Brian Quinn
Executive Director
Bank of England

John Fennell

MAY I add a brief word to your obituary of John Fennell (August 20)?

I met him some twenty years ago, and he remained a generous and understanding friend.

There were a serenity and youthfulness about him which owed much, I am sure, to his supremely happy marriage. In their house in north Oxford, he and his wife Marina created an atmosphere of tranquillity. I always had the sense there of a world apart. Yet John understood university politics as well as anyone, and he took effective action when he was concerned with a cause.

He was always ready to do justice. He was always ready, too, to do a minor kindness. I was once asked by a publisher to report on a French life of Tolstoy. I was not sure what contribution it made to Tolstoy studies. The publisher must have been surprised by my comprehensive comments:

he would have been still more impressed had he known their source.

John was a compassionate man and in his leisure moments, and after his retirement, he was often on call for the Samaritans, and he and Marina worked for the Sir Michael Sobell Hospice.

He did not advertise his practical charity, any more than he reminded people of his academic distinction; but I still recall his lecture on *The Concept of the Individual in Early Russian Literature*. In an hour, at the Royal Society of Literature, he revealed his intellectual power and the commitment of a lifetime.

John was quintessentially English, and he had the proverbial solidity of the Yorkshireman, but he held firmly to the Russian Orthodox faith, to which he had been converted. Many of us will remember him for his kindness, his modesty and his integrity.

Joanna Richardson

Aug 28 ON THIS DAY 1934

The banning of hooting and the sounding of other warning instruments on motor vehicles in built-up areas from 11.30pm until 7.00am the following morning was another of the bold innovations of Leslie Hore-Belisha when Minister of Transport.

ZONE OF SILENCE

At half-past 11 last night London became a zone of silence. Within a radius of five miles from King Charles's statue at Charing Cross it was forbidden to sound horns and other warning instruments on motor vehicles.

The prohibition made by the Minister of Transport in accordance with powers granted to him under the Road Traffic Act, will operate each night from 11.30 until the following morning at 7 o'clock. Infraction of the regulation is punishable by a fine not exceeding 40s.

Mr Hore-Belisha, in a broadcast address last week, explained that the "zone of silence" in London was an experiment, and that if the experiment proved successful similar regulations would be made in other areas. The Minister will receive reports today from the police and from officials of the Ministry on the working of the regulation.

Half-past 11 at night is in some parts of London a comparatively quiet time. In the theatre district, for example, it is noticeably so, coming as the definite hush immediately after the very noisy period when the theatres are being emptied of hundreds of people. That period is probably one of maximum noise: in addition to the sounding of motor-horns there is much shouting and whistling for cabs and private cars. By half-past 11 theatre traffic is, in the main, well away from the theatres, and in more general streams.

Similarly traffic that may have been concentrated at other

places of public assembly, such as the Albert Hall, is usually in the wider stream of general traffic by 11.30. At restaurants and hotels where there are late cabarets or other entertainments the departure of the guests is intermittent rather than general, and is not comparable with that of an audience leaving a theatre. The noisy reveler will doubtless be found in London for all time, but the new regulation will probably have a deterrent effect on even his desire to sound a motor-horn.

The places in which it was found most difficult for taxicab drivers to remember that London was a zone of silence were the railway stations, where the arrival of late trains caused a temporary rush of motor traffic in the station yards. Drivers in the ordinary flow of main-road traffic were not subject to such pressure, and showed no reluctance to observe the new regulation. Further away from Central London drivers of all motor vehicles seemed to be fairly well aware of the regulation. The general effect was undoubtedly a decrease of what had been an outstanding noise in a more general volume of noise.

Hospitals may be expected to feel the benefit of this diminution in one source of noise. It is admittedly only a small fraction of the great sound which hovers over London, even by night, but the motor-horn has too often been an intrusion on the general sound. Anyone who stands in St Paul's Churchyard when City traffic is at its peak on a winter evening can easily hear the twitter of the starlings on the Cathedral above the roar of the traffic. Similarly the sound of a motor-horn at night rises above the general sound of traffic.

It was obviously necessary to make allowance last night for many people not yet being fully acquainted with the new regulation. Its enforcement is primarily intended to ensure tranquillity in residential streets. It is too early to judge, from a single night's working of the regulation, whether it will increase the risk to pedestrians in crossing streets.

Rare trees in barren Brent

TWO rare Pride of India trees, probably planted shortly after the first world war, have been discovered growing in an industrial wasteland in the London borough of Brent.

They were found during a survey of the capital's trees by the Countryside Commission, which was asked by the environment secretary to restore the damage caused by the great storms of 1987 and 1990.

The two specimens, *koelreuteria paniculata*, were probably planted in ornamental gardens in grander days when the area boasted many large houses. Now the Forestry Commission will experiment on seeds to see if Pride of India trees, also known as golden rain trees, are of value for future planting in urban areas.

The commission's Task Force Trees programme will continue until 1994 by which time £3 million will have been spent on restoring the treescapes of southern England.

Clergy appointments

The Rev Patrick Allen, Assistant Curate, St Mary the Virgin, Kenyon (London): to be Vicar, St Nicholas, Plumstead (Southwark).

The Rev Noel Beattie, Industrial Chaplain, diocese Lincoln: to be Industrial Chaplain to the Mid-western Textiles (Rochester).

The Rev Lionel Boniface, Vicar, Oughthorpe, Sheffield: to be Priest-in-charge, St Helen's, Treeton (Sheffield).

The Rev Mark Bonney, Priest-in-charge, St Alban's Abbey, to be Vicar, Eaton Bray w. Eddisbury (St Albans).

The Rev Robin Brown, Vicar, the Church of the Transfiguration, Kempton: to be also Rural Dean of Bedford (St Albans).

The Rev Clive Cooper (Guildford): to be Chaplain to Felstead College (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Derek Cottrill, Rector, Barton Stacey and Bellingham and Hushbourne Priors and Longparish: to be Rector, Bishopscote (Winchester).

The Rev Tony Davies, Rector, Westgate Barton w. Steple Barton, Sandford St Martin and Duns Tew: to be also Rural Dean of Woodstock (Oxford).

The Rev Brian Dorrington, Rec-

tor, Kilhampton w. Morwenston: to be also Rural Dean of Stratton (Trent).

The Rev Brian Paulsen, Rector, Fostonham w. Hindoston and Godwick: to be Priest-in-charge, Erpingham, Calthorpe, Ingworth, Aldborough w. Thurgarton and Alby w. Thwistle (Norwich).

The Rev Roy Foreman, Curate, Walthamstow, St Mary: to be Team Vicar, Walthamstow, St Stephen, in the Walthamstow Team Ministry (Chelmsford).

The Rev Dr John Frederick, Rector, St Mary, Blechingley: to be also Rural Dean of Godstone (Southwark).

The Rev Peter Frowley: to be Vicar, St Exocod and St Michael, Rock (Trent).

The Rev Christopher Fuller, Assistant Curate, St Nicholas w. St Mary Magdalene, Chiswick: to be Vicar, The Good Shepherd, Hounslow West (London).

The Rev James Gardom, Curate, Witley Team Ministry (Oxford): to be USPG in Zimbabwe.

The Rev Jeremy Gilpin, Assistant Curate, South St Jude (Purtonmouth): to be Rector, Icknoughton w. Slindon (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Rodney Harding, Assistant Director of Southern Diocesan Ministerial Training Scheme to

be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Bolton-le-Sands (Blackburn).

The Rev Ian Harper, Team Vicar, St Paul, Thamestead: to be Team Rector, North Lambeth Team Ministry (Southwark).

The Rev Robert Harris, Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Cleveland (Bath and Wells): to be Vicar, Felpham w. Middleton (Chichester).

The Rev Anthony Hurle, Team Vicar, St Patrick, Barking (Chelmsford): to be Vicar, St Paul, St Albans (St Albans).

The Rev Peter Kefferd, Rector, Henfield w. Sbermumbury and Woodmancote (Chichester).

The Rev John Kirby, Rector, Byfield (Guildford): to be Priest-in-charge, Potten End w. Nettleden (St Albans).

The Rev Clare Le Vay, Parish Deacon, St James and St John, Hackney (London): to be Chaplain's Assistant at the Greenwich District/Brook General Hospitals (Southwark).

The Rev Rosalind MacRae, Chaplain to St Austell Hospital and Mount Edgcombe Hospital: to be Chaplain to the Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro, City and St Clements (Trent).

The Rev Ivor Morris, Priest-in-charge, Chelmsford, The Ascen-

sion: to be also Priest-in-charge, Chelmsford, All Saints (Chelmsford).

The Rev Peter Nokes, Vicar, St Edmundsbury and St Peter-in-charge, Epping, St John (Chelmsford).

The Rev Robert Payne, Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Wistow: St Michael, Cwm Head; St Margaret, Acre St; St Peter-in-charge, St Edward, Dorrington; St Mary, Leobow; St Mary, Longnor; St Michael, Smeeth; St Michael and All Angels, Wootton; St John Baptist, Sopleston (Hereford).

The Rev Diane Powell, non-stipendiary Assistant Curate, St Mary: to be Minister-in-charge, Gerrans w. St Anthony-in-Roeland (Trent).

The Rev William Sands, Priest-in-charge, Elmest w. Aldham and Kersey (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Rector, Edgimund (Mantelsham).

The Rev Andrew Thomson, Rector, St Paul's, Marlborough (Hampshire): to be Priest-in-charge, North and South Crake w. Waterdon, East, North and West, Barham and Southborough (Norwich).

The Rev John Vincent: to be Honorary Priest-in-charge of Chacewater (Trent).

The Rev Julie Wallace, at the Church Army Counselling Centre in London: to be also Honorary Parish Deacon, St Dunstan, Bellingham (Southwark).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Len Crowe, Vicar, Fairlight (Chichester): to retire as from 19 September.

The Rev Glen Grant, Assistant Chaplain, Leeds Prison (Chichester): to retire as from 30 September.

The Rev John Hale, Rector, Rotherfield w. Mark Cross (Chichester): to retire as from 1 November.

The Rev David Hutchinson, Vicar, Aldborough w. Hazewood (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to retire as from 2 October.

The Rev Peter Noble, Vicar, St Peter's, Askeon, Doncaster (Sheffield): to retire as from 30 September.

The Rev Nicholas Wickham, Secretary of St John the Evangelist, St Edward's House, Westminster: has retired as non-stipendiary minister, Banbury Team Ministry (Oxford).

Other appointments

Mr John Hume, Schools Officer, diocese of Sheffield: to be Director of Schools, same diocese.

Mr John Hume, Schools Officer, diocese of Sheffield: to be Director of Schools, same diocese.

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

"Maybe Britain will have to introduce a card system," the aide said. "Out of tradition, more than anything, Britain has kept its controls at ports of entry, but from next year that cannot happen if people are coming from elsewhere within the EC. Identity cards might be the price Britain has to pay."

Sarajevo casualties, page 11
Cultural genocide, page 12
Letters, page 13

Another British argument with the Commission highlighted is the government's suspicion of Brussels' plans for an EC company statute law. Under the plans, a German multinational, for example, could set up a subsidiary in Britain where workers would automatically have rights to management participation. The company would in no way be obliged to adapt to British company statutes.

THE BANK HOLIDAY BLACKSPOTS

Roadworks
Major events

A96: lane closure at Aberdeen

A829: roadworks between Dundee and Forfar

M3: contraflow at J1 and J4

A78: temporary lights at Edinburgh

A19: contraflow at Sunderland

A588: contraflow near Leigh

A5148: Cheshire Road closed

M62: contraflow at J1

A511: Derby ring road

A1: Newark bypass

A1: Brampton Hot roundabout

A12: restrictions at Petts Woe

A318: Kensington High St

A206: Upper Richmond Rd (Putney High St)

M25: contraflow J5-J8

A26: restrictions Boleyn and Wapping and north of Brighton

A322: Guildford

M3: contraflow J5-J8

A340: closed in Alderminster

A269: roadworks between Swindon and Oxford

A56: temporary lights at Puddingtown

A57: temporary traffic lights at Broomfield Hill

A4: restrictions on Bath Rd

M5: congestion at junction with A558 (J25)

M4: contraflow J27-J29

A4042: lane restrictions at Newport

M6: J12-J13

A5: delays between Llanelgallen and Corwen

A5118: contraflow on Stockport ringroad

M6: lane closures at J25

A5: restrictions between Perth and Stirling

Edinburgh: although Mon-

day is not a Scottish bank holiday, delays in Edinburgh city centre will be worsened by Festival traffic (1).
Cleveland: Billingham show (2) and Middlesbrough Mela (3) at Central Gardens on Sunday.
Lake District: routes to and from the Lake District will be busy. Troublespots include the M6 (336-37, 43-44), the A66/A69 trans-Pennine routes and the A65 (Yorkshire-Lake District).
West Yorkshire: steam rally in Leeds (4). Truck spectacular in Leeds (5) and Wakefield Festival at Stanley Ferry (6).
Greater Manchester: no major delays, apart from the A580 East Lancs road, where a contraflow system is operating between the Greyhound roundabout and Lane Head, with the A549 Cheshire Road north of Grange Road and Buckingham Road.
Nottinghamshire: American Adventure Park off M1 (26) (7).
Derbyshire: Super Bikes at Derby (8).
Staffordshire: Drayton Manor Park and Zoo near Tamworth (9). Major roadworks on M6 (12-13) will remain in place over the bank

Essex: the Essex Craft Show (15), Hyland Spectacular at Chelmsford (16) and Lea Valley motor show (17) run all weekend and will attract thousands.

Devon, Dorset and Cornwall at the National Hunt meeting at Newbury on Monday (21), a large "rave" at Dawlish Airfield, Cornwall (22); and the Dartmouth Regatta on Saturday and Sunday (23) will cause congestion on the A30, M5 (J30-31), and the A38 (Tamar Bridge). Long delays likely on the A35 (Puddletown), A37 and the A4 (Bath Road, Bristol).

Notting Hill carnival
L&T section, page 9
Last-minute France, page 4

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

An estimated 55,000 of Britain's 100,000 bridges are likely to be affected by the new EC 40 tonne loading

its deck waterproofed, will be closed between 11pm and 6am and is liable to sudden daytime closures, although

temporary one-way systems south of the Thames are causing delays on London Bridge.

Devon, Dorset and Cornwall the National Hunt meeting at Newton Abbot on Monday (21), a large "rave" at Davisow Airfield, Cornwall (22) and the Dartmouth Regatta on Saturday and Sunday (23) will cause congestion on the A30, M5 (J30-31), and the A38 (Tamar Bridge). Long delays likely on the A35 (Puddletown), A37 and the A4 (Bath Road, Bristol).

Notting Hill carnival
L&T section, page 9
Last-minute France, page 4

Solution to Puzzle No 19,008

C	A	T	H	O	L	I	C	E	W	E
L	U	I	N	S	T	R	E	A	M	
M	O	S	S	G	H	O	L	I	T	
P	T	R	A	D	E	S	U	R	P	L
E	M	R	O	D	E	S				
S	C	A	R	E	E	G	O	M	A	N
I	K	N	S	T	R					
P	A	L	E	T	S	L	A	N	D	R
N	E	U	T	R	I	N	G	O	S	P
G	O	N	E	S						
P	L	A	N	E	T	E	S	I	M	A
N	U	M	E	R	A	L	I	S		
N	U	M	E	R	A	L	I	S		
G	O	N	E	S						
G	O	N	E	S						

Concise Crossword, page 7
Life & Times section

SACCADIC
a. Sweetened
b. Twichy
c. Pertaining to a bang or sack

FUTHORC
a. A fishy sea-monster
b. The runic alphabet
c. A double-headed spear

QUARL
a. To quarrel
b. The jellyfish
c. A Viking squadron leader

HEBETUDE
a. Pertaining to wine-making
b. Dullness, stupidity
c. Common arm

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH	
For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code	
London & SE	731
C. London (W & N & S Ceres)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Darlington	734
M-ways/roads Darlington-TM23	735
M-ways/roads M23-M4	736
SE London Orbital only	737
National	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
Midlands	742
East Anglia	743
North-west England	744
North-east England	745
Scotland	746

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[illegible][illegible]

GLASGOW
Yesterday: Temp. max 6am to 6pm, 18C
Wind, S.W. 10-15 mph

For the latest region and forecast.
 24 hours a day, dial 0881 500 followed
 by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey	702
Dorset, Sussex & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Dorset	705
Barks, Bucks, Oxon.	706
Derbs, Herts & Essex	707
Northants, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid. & Cheshire	709

Shops, Heretics & Wores	708	Austria Sch	20.70	59.10
Central Midlands	710	Belgium Fr	60.90	58.10
East Midlands	712	Canada & T	7.10	2.10
Lincs & Humberside	713	Denmark Kr	14.10	16.80
Dryad & Pottery	714	Finland Mik	8.22	7.68
Gwynedd & Cwyd	715	France Fr	11.20	11.20
N W England	716	Germany Dm	3.03	2.73
S & E Yorks & Dales	717	Greece Dr	352.00	337.00
N W England	718	Hong Kong	13.82	13.82
Cumbria & Lake District	719	Ireland Pl	1.11	1.028
S W Scotland	720	Lithuania	226.00	209.00
W Central Scotland	721	Netherlands Gld	3.31	3.04
S & E Fife/Lothian & Borders	722	Norway Kr	11.84	10.80
W Central Scotland	723	Portugal	295.00	235.50
Strathclyde & E Highlands	724	South Africa Rd	6.28	5.85
N W Scotland	725	Spain Ph	186.50	175.60
Cathness, Orkney & Shetland	726	Sweden Kr	5.44	5.00
W Central Scotland	727	Switzerland Fr	2.82	2.62
W Central Scotland	728	Turkey Lira	14500.00	13500.00
W Central Scotland	729	Ukraine	1.00	1.00
W Central Scotland	730	Yugoslavia Dnr	600.00	DNK

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Rates for most denomination bank notes only

[illegible]

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 21°C (70°F); min 6pm to 8am, 15C (59°F). Humidity: pm, 88 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 8pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.5hr. Bar: max to 6pm, 1010.1, 1,000.0 millibars, falling.

Wednesday: Highest day temps: Jersey, and Gwyneddys, Essex, 21°C (70°F); lowest day temps: Tulkoh Bridge, Grampian, 12C (54°F); highest rainfall: Anglesey, 0.79in; highest sunshine: Lerwick, Shetland, 5.5hr.

London 7.55 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 6.18 am
Edinburgh 8.77 pm to 6.12 am
Manchester 8.06 pm to 6.13 am
Penzance 8.14 pm to 6.33 am

Sun sets
6.07 am

Sun sets
7.53 pm

Moon rises
6.39 am

Moon sets
7.36 pm

New moon 3.48am

TODAY					TODAY				
AM	HT	PM	HT		AM	HT	PM	HT	
2.08	7.3	2.48	7.3		1.56	8.1	12.06	9.7	
1.38	2.1	4.2	7.1		9.2	2.8	10.46	2.4	
1.38	1.3	4.2	7.1		12.26	2.4	12.46	4.8	
11.57	3.4				6.88	7.2	6.08	7.5	
7.02	1.9	8.11	10.9		5.46	7.2	6.08	7.5	
6.61	5.5	7.09	8.0						

11.51	6.8			Chen	6.44	4.0	6.53	4.3
8.21	5.3	6.39	5.6	Penzance	5.47	5.6	6.05	5.9
1.13	5.1	1.53	4.8	Portland	6.07	2.2	8.16	2.6
12.25	4.1	12.43	4.0	Portsmouth				
11.04	5.7	11.90	6.6	Shoreham			12.16	5.0

8.53	7.7	7.29	6.5	Southampton	11.43	4.7	12.07	6.5
8.49	9.5	7.07	9.8	Swansea	7.14	10.0	7.36	10.5
7.07	8.9	7.48	7.0	Thames	4.14	5.7	4.48	5.7
3.03	5.9	3.39	6.5	Wyton-on-Nise	12.15	4.3	12.32	4.3

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2806ft.

NOON TIDAL

LOW HIGH

Information supplied by Met Office

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

DAF

THE POUND

ROCK MARKET

INTEREST RATES

CURRENCIES

GOLD

MEDITERRANEAN SEA OIL

CRUDE OIL PRICES

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● BUSINESS 17-23
● YOUR OWN BUSINESS 24
● INFOTECH TIMES 25

BUSINESS TIMES

FRIDAY AUGUST 28 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
26-30

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

WHOSE BILL?



Funding of the Investors Compensation Scheme, chaired by Richard Lawson, is under review
Page 21

BOND APPEAL

Alan Bond, the bankrupt Australian, was released from prison after an appeal trial ordered his retrial for dishonesty charges
Page 18

BUMPY ROAD



DAF, the lorry-builder, is seeking a cash injection after losses of £30.5 million, and has warned a further 1,000 jobs must go
Page 19

COAL BIDS

Two management-led consortia may bid for British Coal's smokeless fuel subsidiary but could face opposition
Page 19

TOMORROW



James Tackey grew up beneath canvas awnings as chief executive of M&P. He is responsible for some of Britain's biggest developments.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9788 (-0.0055)
German mark 2.7830 (-0.0040)
Exchange index 92.1 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1688.6 (+12.4)
FT-SE 100 2311.6 (+26.6)
New York Dow Jones 3260.05 (+13.24)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17555.00 (+1013.35)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate: 10%
3-month Interbank: 10%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.15-3.13%
30-year bonds: 8.98-9.0%

CURRENCY

London: £1/\$1.9788
New York: £1/\$1.9788
C: DM/\$1.9788
S: DM/\$1.9788
C: ¥/\$1.9788
S: ¥/\$1.9788
C: Sfr/\$1.9788
S: Sfr/\$1.9788
C: ECU/\$1.9788
S: ECU/\$1.9788
C: ECU/\$1.9788
S: ECU/\$1.9788

GOLD

London: £383.75 PM \$338.00
C: \$338.00-339.50
S: \$338.00-339.50
New York: \$338.00-339.50
C: \$338.00-339.50
S: \$338.00-339.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$19.75/bbl (\$19.75)

REPAIRS

RPT: 138.8 July (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Sterling and dollar stabilise

French minister rules out ERM shake-up

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MICHEL Sapin, the French finance minister, yesterday threw his weight behind European efforts to reduce tensions within the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) to avert the need for higher interest rates in defence of ERM parities. He ruled out categorically any chance of an ERM realignment, making clear that neither Bonn, nor the Bundesbank, was calling for such a move. Market uncertainty about the stance of the German central bank on realignment had partially undermined the British authorities' heavy intervention to lift the pound on Wednesday.

In remarks to reporters in Paris before a meeting of the deputy finance ministers, or "sherpas", of the Group of Seven leading economies, M Sapin said: "A monetary realignment within the European monetary system is not on the agenda and will not happen".

He spelled out that the joint policy intentions of ERM members were aimed at "maintaining current parities" as a fundamental element of stability. International co-operation had been "very active" in recent weeks.

Turning to the dollar, M

Sapin said the G7 countries would take more technical measures to prop up the American currency. "No G7 member wants the dollar to continue to weaken... quite the contrary," he said, adding that a further dollar fall would harm monetary stability in America and Europe.

His remarks, which followed Wednesday's Bank of England intervention and a renewed pledge from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to hold sterling squarely in the ERM, lifted sterling and the dollar.

British money market rates eased, with the key three-month interbank rate closing at 10 1/16 per cent, down from 10 1/8. One-month money, down to 10 1/4 per cent, also indicated reduced fear of an imminent base rate hike.

But the pound's calmer day was not reflected throughout the ERM. The central banks of Italy, Spain and Portugal were forced to intervene in support of their currencies. Speculation that Italy was about to raise key interest rates was enough to soften the pound towards the London close. Sterling closed at DM2.7930, less than half a penny below its previous finish. Having neared

DM2.80 during the morning, this left the pound still a penny and a half above its absolute ERM floor. But the firmer dollar, which closed at \$1.9786, more than half a cent up on Wednesday, helped to nudge sterling's trade-weighted index down 0.2 to 91.1.

Share price moved ahead in key centres, reflecting the 1,013.35 point - or 6.13 per cent - rise in Japan's Nikkei average, a factor that gave the mark a weaker tone. The FT-SE 100 ended 26.6 points higher at 2,311.6.

Remarks by Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, which were misread as a call for an immediate cut in German interest rates, caused only a brief flutter. While forecasting west German growth of up to 1.5 per cent this year, Herr Waigel said Germany needed lower interest rates "in the medium term". For the whole economy, he predicted real growth of 2 to 2.5 per cent. He said German exporters faced difficulties because of the delay in the international recovery and the weak dollar.

Provisional German consumer price data issued yesterday showed annual inflation up to 3.5 per cent, after four months of declines. In July, the annual rate slowed to 3.3 per cent. But the August figures were heavily distorted by a surge in rents in Hesse and are unlikely to cause the Bundesbank, whose main concern remains excessive money growth, much worry.

The G7 sherpas, who met for a working dinner last night before today's full meeting to prepare for the finance ministers' session next month, are expected to focus on ways to rein in the mark and revitalise the fragile world economy.

Russia, which is seeking deferral on its huge debt repayments, will be represented at the meeting by Alexander Shokhin, deputy prime minister.



One foot forward, one back: John Church, chairman of Church, with Shelley Garcia, manageress at A Jones, yesterday

US market provides salvation for Church

By RODNEY HOBSON

ONE step forward, one step back. So the year has unfolded for Church & Co, the shoe maker. While the American company returned to profitability, UK retailing and operations in Canada, France and Hong Kong all slipped into the red in the first half.

Overall, Church shuffled forwards, with pre-tax profits at £244,000, compared with only £14,000 in the first half of last year. Despite a fall in turnover from £31 million to £29.9 million. The dividend stays at 3p.

John Church, chairman, said: "Economic recovery and consumer confidence in most of the markets in which we operate remains elusive and I believe it should be unrealistic to expect any major upturn in demand over the next few months."

Trading conditions continue to be "extremely challenging".

Church seeks salvation in Japan and Italy. As part of a policy to make more use of the brand name by extending it to other items of clothing, two licensing agreements have been signed in Japan. However, income will not start to flow this year.

Despite taking a cautious stance on retail expansion, Church is opening its first shop in Italy. The Milan branch opens at the end of next month. The flagship store in New York has been extended. Mr Church said: "We now have a magnificent corner site on Madison Avenue and 49th Street with greatly improved window display."

A Jones, a wholly-owned shoe retailing subsidiary, lost £26,000 in the six months to June after making provisions of £27,000.

Air Canada launches \$400m joint bid for Continental

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

AIR Canada last night bid US\$400 million for Continental Airlines, the bankrupt American carrier, in a deal that could set important precedents for the \$750 million British Airways alliance with USAir, the American operator.

The BA deal has run into opposition from leading American carriers, which want the alliance declared illegal and accuse BA of trying to gain control of USAir via the back door by rewriting boardroom voting rules. BA intends to take 21 per cent of the votes and 44 per cent of USAir's equity.

American law permits foreign carriers to own only 25 per cent of the total equity. But Air Canada, which is making a joint bid with Air Partners, an American investment group, will control 65 per cent of Continental's votes, 58 per cent of the equity and ten seats on a 16-place board.

Lee Howard, chief executive at Airline Economics, an independent aviation consultant, said: "On first reading it looks like they'll get under the wire because they have a US partner on the team."

A spokesman for Air Canada said: "We do not anticipate any problems with the US regulators because the proposal is structured within the existing legal framework. We will control only 24 per cent of the votes. Air Partners will have 41 per cent and we will each own 29 per cent of the equity. We brought in Air Partners because of their expertise in corporate turnarounds. We are confident this will go through," he added.

Air Partners has ties to Robert Bass, the Texas oil billionaire, although it is understood he is not personally involved in the plan. David

Bonderman, a former Washington lawyer who joined Bass in 1983 and served as chief counsel to Braniff International during the airline's restructuring, and James Coulter, who joined Bass in 1986 from Shearson Lehman, the investment bank advising Air Canada, head Air Partners. Both are American citizens. Air Partners was not available for comment.

Hollis Harris, Air Canada's vice chairman, president and chief executive, ran Continental for two years until 1991 when he stepped down after the board said his cutbacks to keep the airline going were not deep enough. His joint bid will put \$100 million into Continental and take over \$300 million of its debts. It is the third and highest offer for the fifth largest airline in

America. Other bids have been made by Charles Hurwitz, a Houston financier and chairman of energy group Maxxam, and Alfredo Brenner, whose family owns a large stake in Mexicana Airlines.

Continental employs 42,000 people and serves 114 American cities and 54 international destinations. It flew 44 billion revenue passenger miles and generated \$5.1 billion income last year. The carrier filed for Chapter 11 protection in December 1990 with debts of more than \$4 billion.

Air Canada, privatised in 1989, flies to 92 North American cities and 22 in Europe and the Caribbean. Air Canada flew 13.7 billion revenue passenger miles in 1991 and generated revenues of Can\$3.6 billion (£1.5 billion).

US storm forecast to be costliest ever

By PATRICIA TEHAN

AMERICA'S biggest insurer, State Farm, expects Hurricane Andrew to be the costliest in the country's history. It says losses are likely to exceed even those caused by Hurricane Hugo, in 1989, which cost the world's insurance industry \$3.8 billion.

State Farm paid out \$455 million after Hurricane Hugo. It has 20 per cent of the insurance market in Florida and Louisiana, the states hit by Hurricane Andrew. The company has 550 loss adjusters in the area and hopes to fly in another 200 by tomorrow. The hurricane destroyed almost everything in a 20-mile swath of southern Florida, it said.

Britain's top five insurers estimate that the hurricane will cost them at least \$120 million.

General Accident, which has a 0.5 per cent market share in Florida, believes its losses will reach the \$40 million level at which its

external catastrophe reinsurance cover is activated. The company also faces smaller London market marine and reinsurance losses. Hurricane losses will be shown in the company's third-quarter figures, which will be reported to the Stock Exchange on November 10.

Guardian Royal Exchange, which has less exposure, estimates its losses at \$12 million to \$20 million. Commercial Union reckoned its exposure was about \$20 million. Royal Insurance said its losses should be capped at \$30 million, the point at which its reinsurance kicks in. It estimates its losses so far at up to \$20 million.

Sun Alliance said it had a \$20 million exposure from operations in the Caribbean and expected a loss from its stake in America's Chubb Corporation. Sun is still waiting to hear estimates of Chubb's losses, of which it will bear 15 per cent.



Waigel: growth forecast

Lloyd's expects victory in poll

By JONATHAN PRYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of the Council of Lloyd's are quietly confident they have secured a substantial majority in a crucial part of a ballot of the Lloyd's membership, the result of which will be given this afternoon.

Resolution A on the ballot paper, debated at a stormy meeting of names last month, expresses confidence in the current council, subject to its

continued commitment to reforms of the market.

However, some other resolutions in the ballot - particularly one calling for the £500 million levy of the membership, to support the losses of stricken names, to be dropped - may be closer calls. The poll is being organised by the Electoral Reform Society.

Most members' agents con-

tacted yesterday said the feedback from their names indicated a very heavy response to the poll. Lloyd's has set up telephone information lines for names giving recorded details of the results from 2.30pm.

The numbers: 071 327 5412, 071 327 5413 and 071 327 5480.

Comment, page 21

Cold draught of recession hits drinks industry

By GEORGE STIVELL

THE drinks industry, considered by the City as a solid investment when the rest of the economy is flat, is feeling the cold draught of recession.

Two brewers, Scottish & Newcastle and Greene King, both warned shareholders yesterday that trade had deteriorated in the past few weeks. City analysts said they expected more stale news from the brewers in coming trading statements.

Brewing analysts are becoming concerned that the recession is taking a bigger toll on the industry than they had come to expect. They attributed yesterday's sharp falls in the S&N and Greene King share prices to the element of surprise that drinks too are having a hard recession. If they had been engineering companies making such statements yesterday few would have batted an eyelid.

But as the City knows to its cost the present recession is white collar based, and is having a much different

affect on the nation's drinking habits than the early eighties' shakeout of blue collar workers. In 1980 and 1981, it was the eight pints a night industrial worker who cut back. Now it is the two pints of expensive lager a night drinker who is feeling the squeeze. For the brewers this is the loss of more profitable business.

But Sir Alick also signalled a geographical change in the recession. He warned his shareholders: "It is now of concern to us that the economic weaknesses particularly associated with the South East of England are beginning to impact further North and in Scotland."

To avoid spreading too much doom and gloom in its heartland, Scottish & Newcastle later qualified the statement to imply that although the North was still doing better than the South the gap was narrower than a year ago. "I think you will see the North is being a bit canny on spending," one S&N man said.

Sir Alick has grown noticeably more

gloomy over the past few weeks. In the annual report he stated: "Recession has not yet gone away - the much heralded recovery is still illusory." Yesterday, he said to shareholders: "Reviewing that statement, it has to be said that trading conditions, far from showing any improvement, have further deteriorated in those UK consumer markets with which we are most concerned. Furthermore, we cannot as yet discern any sign of a future upturn."

S&N feels that while it is doing well relative to its competitors it is not immune to recession. Scottish & Newcastle recently took over Center Parc, the holiday group, and was thought to be doubly immune to recession. But the shares fell 6 per cent, or 25p, to 394p yesterday as analysts recalculated forecasts.

County Natwest shaded down its forecast for the current year from £239 million to £226 million, almost back to the £221 million that S&N made in the year to April. Forecasts for the

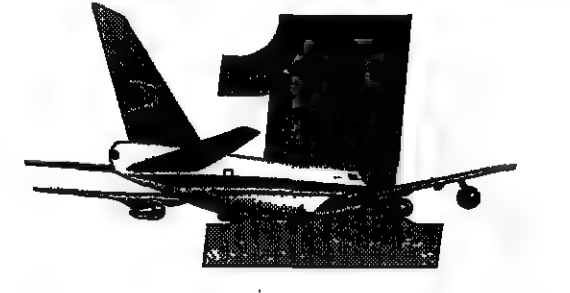
following year have been cut from £261 million to £240 million.

Greene King, meanwhile, feels it is operating in the two most depressed parts of the UK, East Anglia and the South East. Simon Redman, the chairman, told shareholders: "Our business is dependent upon consumer expenditure and will benefit when this starts to increase. At the moment, we see no real signs of an end to the recession. Indeed, trading conditions have, if anything, deteriorated in the last two months, after some improvement in May and June. In these circumstances we believe our performance continues to be satisfactory."

In the year to date, cask beer volumes have grown overall and Greene King IPA is performing particularly well in the free trade with sales up by more than 10 per cent. Although our total trade is slightly down against last year, we still continue to gain market share in our trading area."

Greene King shares fell 21p to 422p.

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Dealers wary despite leap in Tokyo share prices

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

THE Tokyo stock market soared yesterday, with the key Nikkei average up 1,013.35 points, or 6.13 per cent, to 17,555.00, bringing it 3,245.59 points (22 per cent) off the 77-month low posted on Tuesday last week.

Each new surge is raising confidence that the Tokyo stock market's long slump has bottomed out, but analysts are keeping an eye on future hurdles.

Prices rallied after government moves to underpin confidence in the financial system, leading up to the stimulative economic package due today. But what happens thereafter is still a matter of debate.

"Everybody knows what is

Nomura expected to fall into red

NOMURA Securities, battered by depressed share prices and low turnover in Tokyo's stock market, looks set to follow its three main rival brokerage houses, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi, by dipping into the red, industry sources said (Reuters reports from Tokyo).

"We expect Nomura to post a current loss of about 15 billion yen for the fiscal half-year (to September 30, 1992)," said Linda Daquil, analyst at UBS Phillips and Drew.

She attributed the expected decline in profit to falling commission income due to sluggish market volume and a reserve fund set aside for this winter's bonuses.

"Even if market turnover does start to pick up, it's unlikely to go beyond a daily average volume of about 300 to 350 million shares in the rest of this fiscal year, rising to about 400 million in the next fiscal year," Ms Daquil said.

In May, Nomura and its rivals assumed volume would average 400 million this fiscal year and forecast modest profits all round. Volume has actually averaged about 270 million, but picked up significantly in the past week. The Nikkei average closed up 1,013.35 points, or 6.13 per cent, at 17,555.00 yesterday.

A Nomura spokesman said if the company posted a loss, it would be the first since September 1951.

in the economic package, and it is already discounted in prices," said Kenzo Doi of Kokusai Securities. "We will have a tougher time advancing afterwards."

Once the package is launched, it must still pass a special parliamentary session next month. In mid-September, the quarterly settlement of stock index futures is due.

The end of September marks the close of the fiscal year's first half and will feature changing forecasts of corporate profits, with actual results in October and November.

And the low profile of sellers at present will change as rising prices inevitably draw out profit-taking, analysts said.

"The market has been exceeding the speed limit, and some people will want to cash out soon," one broker said.

The lack of selling is a key feature in the present surge.

Last Tuesday, the finance ministry urged institutional investors to restrict "easy" profit-taking in stocks before the fiscal half year to boost their financial results.

"Rising to this level was almost inevitable since so many people had to buy back oversold positions while institutions are under pressure not to sell," said a Yamaichi Securities trader. Many traders are worried that pent-up selling could flood the market after the half-year's finish. "Picture a house, two walls and a triangular roof," said one Japanese brokerage trader. "We're going up one wall now, then we'll dip over the roof tiles in September, and drop straight down the far wall in October."

But increased selling contributes to a healthier market, and the end of Tokyo's long downward trend can only be confirmed when it meets and absorbs that selling, said Mr Doi of Kokusai.

Even analysts who regard an October dive as inescapable think it will not go through the floor but will be met by bargain-hunting.

Investors know the government's reputation is on the line, and think another serious threat to the Nikkei's 15,000 level will be met by further action.

But the upside is limited. The still-slumping economy and slumping corporate earnings cannot support valuations much higher than at present, analysts said. The most the Nikkei can hope for in the short term is 19,346, the level on March 31, at the end of the last fiscal year.



Relief: Alan Bond looks forward to seeing his family again after being released from a Perth prison yesterday

Bond released as retrial ordered

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

ALAN Bond, the bankrupt Australian businessman, was released from a Perth prison yesterday after an appeal court ordered his retrial for dishonesty charges.

Mr Bond, once the epitome of bush commercial success in Australia, was unshaven and looked haggard as he walked from Wooroloo Prison Farm, east of Perth, where he has spent 91 days. He was sentenced to two-and-a-half years for dishonesty.

Mr Bond, 54, who was not in court to hear the decision, was ordered to be released on A\$100,000 (£35,000) bail with a similar surety.

A press conference held in the road outside the prison gates came to an abrupt end

when Mr Bond broke down in tears as he spoke of seeing his family again.

His son John took him home in the family Mercedes. It is one of the few visible trappings of wealth that remain after his business empire collapsed under a massive burden of debt this year. However, liquidators are still scouring the world for possible evidence of diverted company funds.

Asked if prison life agreed with him, Mr Bond initially managed a wry grin, saying: "No, I wouldn't say it agrees with me. I don't agree with it, whichever way you like to go about it."

He repeated his trial plea of innocence: "I am very pleased

to be resolved, to be released. It does support what I have been saying. I was innocent of the charge in the first place, and the sentence was beyond any reasonable position that should have been imposed."

Mr Bond said: "I'm now going home to spend some time with my family."

After a Royal Commission into corrupt deals between the state and big business in western Australia, Mr Bond was found guilty on May 29 this year of a dishonesty charge.

This related to his alleged concealment of a commission when he organised a rescue package for Rothwells, the failed West Australian mer-

chant bank, in 1987. His release was based on fresh evidence heard at this week's appeal, claiming that Laurie Connell, the Rothwells owner and a friend of Mr Bond's, gave false evidence at his trial.

Mr Bond's new trial will be held on October 5.

Arriving at Perth airport yesterday, Mr Bond's former wife Eileen said: "I just heard. Thank God."

Mr Bond's former brewing, media and property empire, Bond Corporation, was worth A\$10 billion at its peak but crumbled under a pile of debt. Mr Bond was declared bankrupt in April and his companies now operate under a scheme of arrangement with creditors.

Maple Leaf warns of lean second half

BY OUR CITY STAFF

MAPLE Leaf Foods, Canada's largest food-processing company 56 per cent owned by Hilsedown Holdings, warned that second-half results will be put under pressure by the cold summer, lower interest rates and continuing recession.

The company reported net earnings of C\$35.3 million (£15 million) for the six months to the end of June, up from C\$27.15 million, despite the sale of non-core businesses which left turnover down from C\$1.56 billion to C\$1.32 billion.

The dividend is held at 19

cents a share, payable from net earnings of 44 cents a share, up from 41 cents. Second-quarter net earnings were C\$20 million, against C\$17.1 million, on sales of C\$678.2 million, down from C\$808.5 million.

Charles Bowen, president and chief executive of Maple Leaf, said: "Although product development and strategic initiatives are expected to benefit the company's results for the second half will be affected by the weakness in the economy, the poor summer weather and lower interest rates."

Property earnings boost Swire Pacific

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

SWIRE Pacific, controlled by John Swire & Sons, a private London company, yesterday revealed net profits of HK\$2.18 billion (£142 million) for the six months to end June, up 101 per cent and well above market expectations.

The results include a one-off profit of HK\$631 million from the long-term leasing of an office tower under construction to the Hongkong Telecom group. Without this profit, Swire's earnings grew 43 per cent.

Peter Sutch, the chairman, said the strong profit growth resulted from much higher

property earnings. Swire is one of the colony's biggest landlords, with a portfolio of about 7.6 million sq ft of office, residential and retail space. The commercial market, which has softened in the past two years, showed signs of recovery.

Mr Sutch said the group's 52 per cent-owned Cathay Pacific had a difficult first half but was seeking improved profits for the year.

Swire directors have declared interim dividends of 29 cents per A share and 5.8 cents per B share, representing an increase of 26 per cent.

Smaller firms fight the recession with exports

SMALLER businesses are switching to exports to beat recession and are more than holding their own, according to a survey by the Royal Bank of Scotland. The quarterly survey showed that half of the 1,000 companies responding reported a rise in exports during the past 12 months, while only 31 per cent reported a decline.

The survey, taken at the end of July, showed that companies that have historically relied on the UK market for most of their sales have successfully switched to export markets and are confidently expecting to further improve their performance. The greatest improvement in export performance was by companies in the North and Scotland. About a third of the companies employed fewer than ten people and another third employed ten to 50. But there are no surprises in the target areas for exports.

Fairfax tops forecast

JOHN Fairfax, the Australian newspaper group, earned A\$15.5 million (£5.6 million) for the half year to end-June, more than the A\$12 million predicted in the prospectus for its re-listing. Operating revenues of A\$357.52 million beat the forecast by 1.6 per cent. The result is the first since the December 1991 takeover by a consortium led by Conrad Black, owner of the *Daily Telegraph*. On a four-year basis, including the December half when Fairfax was controlled by a receiver, profit before interest, tax and abnormals rose from A\$117.3 million to A\$128.9 million.

Monument declines

TIM Melville-Ross, chief executive of the Nationwide Building Society, has joined the board of Monument Oil and Gas. The oil explorer yesterday reported a fall in net income from £3.65 million to £1.9 million for the half year to end-June. Operating profits rose from £1.67 million to £2.3 million, largely due to a contribution from the Harriet field in Australia. But a fall in interest receivable from £2.94 million to £1.1 million hit profits at the pre-tax level. Monument said lower interest rates and spending on exploration were both responsible. The shares fell 4p to 334p.

BICC expands overseas

BICC, the cables and construction group, is buying the North American cables business of Reynolds Metals for about £38 million in cash. Reynolds Cables makes power cables. BICC said the similarities between the two groups provide an opportunity for "major" cost reductions "through rationalisation". Robin Biggam, BICC's chairman, said: "This acquisition significantly strengthens our established position as the leading power cable company in North America. It broadens our product line, our customer base and the geographic scope of our manufacturing operations."

Cattle's up at half time

CATTLE's, a consumer credit group, increased pre-tax profits by 35 per cent, from £3.87 million to £5.23 million, in the six months to June 30, but warned that growth would slow in the second half. The interim dividend is increased from 1.5p to 1.6p. In March, Cattle's raised £7.5 million to reduce borrowings by floating Rosebys, a curtain and linen stores group, on the stock market. Cattle's retains a 45 per cent interest in Rosebys. At the half-year, group borrowings were down from £76 million to £57 million and the interest charge was £3.55 million (£3.9 million).

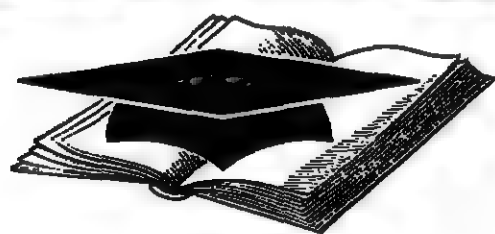
Mayflower advances

MAYFLOWER, a former conglomerate that has been restructured as a specialist engineering company, increased taxable profits from £12,000 to £1.58 million in the six months to June 26 and is returning to the dividend list, paying an interim 0.4p. The recovery reflects the first full contribution from Motor Panels, a vehicle design, engineering and truck cab manufacturer acquired from receivers last September. Manufacturing contributed operating profits of £1.59 million, against £95,000 last time. Services, soon to be sold, earned £13,000, down from £74,000.

New York failures soar

BUSINESS failures in Manhattan soared 110 per cent in the first half of this year, bringing the number in the New York area to 4,000, more than eight times higher than the first year of the recession in 1989. Just over 2,000 businesses failed in the first half of last year, according to Dun & Bradstreet. Retail, property and clothing companies accounted for the largest share. Retailers account for one in five New York businesses, but they made up a third of the failures.

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THE TIMES

Slough wins applause by cutting interim dividend

STOCK market applause for a dividend cut is a sign of the times. Slough Estates, the industrial property group, bounced up 7p to 96p, despite an interim dividend cut from 4.4p to 3.1p and the expectation of a cut in the final from 7.15p to 5p, putting the shares on a prospective yield of 11.25 per cent.

Cash outflow was £52.7 million in the first half but the cash position is expected to be broadly neutral over the year. Slough says it has cut the dividend now to a level it expects to find sustainable in future, even if the recession is prolonged.

The 8.1p total compares with outside forecasts of earnings per share for the full year of more than 11p, based on forecast pre-tax profits approaching £60 million for the full year. Net assets are expected by outside forecasters to hold steady at about 33p a share.

Slough's dividend has been a dubious phenomenon for the past few years, uncovered in 1990 and raised slightly but uncovered in 1991, even on the way Slough presents profits. The notes to yesterday's figures revealed a further £20.9 million of interest put in the balance sheet as an asset and not charged to the profit and loss account.

So pre-tax profits are revealed at £33.6 million, up from £19.1 million in the first

half of 1991 when £27.7 million of interest was capitalised. A reduction in exceptional provisions against the book value of trading assets from £10.9 million to £5.5 million should also have helped the pre-tax figure.

Slough has also to conserve cash for the expected rush out of the euroconvertible bond issued in 1988 and redeemable in 2003. Holders can exercise a put option from May 1993, which could cost Slough £180 million. Hold the shares — but if industrial vacancies begin to rise all bets are off.

Weir

THE Weir Group, with profit leaps registered in double digits, again demonstrates that life can be profitable despite the recession. Marathon runners have to pause for breath, but Weir profits just keep running ahead. In the six months ended June 26, pre-tax profits rose 22.9 per cent to £18.5 million, and the trading margin on a turnover down from £208.2 million to £194.8 million rose from 6.77 to 8.63 per cent.

Ron Garrick, chief executive, insists Weir is not chasing business at the expense of margins, and that a clean measurement of the order inflow in the first half at £175 million compares with a first-half 1991 figure



Sparkling results: Ron Garrick of Weir, where profits rise despite the recession

of £160 million — struck after stripping out exceptional orders won in 1991 from the Middle East.

Weir's market spread, including oil, power, water, naval and marine and general industry, has spared it from the ravages in the construction industry, while the strength of selected overseas markets has more than made up for the weak British economy.

Cash, and interest generation thereon, has again proved a solid plank. Net cash balances at June 26

were £40 million, up £8 million since the year-end, and interest earned rose from £956,000 to £1.68 million.

Weir remains on the lookout for bolt-on acquisitions, and though there are some signs the recession is starting to snap at the heels of its spares division, a further year-on-year profit advance is likely.

A 1992 pre-tax outcome of £40.8 million, against 1991 profits of £36.2 million, would allow the 1992 final dividend to rise as well. The shares have eased from 579p

in May to 435p, though yesterday they rose 14p on the results to 508p, to trade on 14.1 times prospective earnings. Hold on, there is breath left in them yet.

Hambro

ANY company waiting for lower base and mortgage rates and a brisk housing market before it can step back into profits looks like having a long, long wait ahead. Hambro Countrywide is such a company, though at

least it has a profitable life assurance arm to help it through the gloom, and at least it will sharply improve its balance sheet once 49 per cent of profit-making Hambro Legal Protection is sold back to the ultimate parent (Hambros Plc) for £9 million. HC, through its 480 estate agency outlets, experienced a small uptick in the housing market in June and July, which demonstrates that only a modest improvement can have a dramatic impact on profits. But HC last made profits in 1988. In the latest six months to end-June, HC reports a £4.64 million pre-tax loss (£4.26 million loss) and is paying only an 0.05p a share dividend to retain trustee status.

HC retains 51 per cent of Hambro Legal Protection, for which it paid Hambros £3 million in 1989, and is clearly putting itself in better financial shape to absorb all the life assurance arm of Hambro Guardian Assurance once contractual arrangements with GRE end in September 1993.

There is no early prospect of earnings, nor, therefore, of respectable dividends, and estimates of HC's real net worth can only be notional. But Hambros Plc is solidly behind HC, and on the presumption that, one day, profits will return, the shares at 22p are not entirely without interest.

سكراية الاربعين

سكرا على الارض

Daf reduces losses and enters talks on joint production

By Ross Tyeman, Industrial Correspondent

DAF, the Dutch lorry-builder, has begun talks with a would-be partner aimed at securing joint design and production of vehicles, and an injection of cash in exchange for equity.

The company, which has half its manufacturing capacity in Britain, confirmed that talks were in progress with an unnamed group after announcing reduced losses of 97.4 million guilders (£30.5 million) in the half to June 30.

Mercedes-Benz of Germany denied interest in taking a stake in Daf. However, it said the companies had held discussions about "synergies" in component supplies and marketing. Daf declined to say whether the talks with Mercedes were those referred to in its statement. The com-

pany appears to be close to agreement with the Dutch and Belgian governments that each will underwrite a loan of about £100 million to help restore a balance sheet depleted by two years of losses.

Daf said another 1,000 non-manufacturing jobs would go over the next 18 months. The company shed 368 employees during the first half, reducing the payroll to 13,045.

Other lorry manufacturers that could be interested in co-operation with Daf include Nissan of Japan, which has a plant building light trucks and vans in Spain. Other possible partners are MAN of Germany and America's Paccar.

In a statement accompanying its half-year results, Daf said it sought a "strategic alliance" that would enable it to retain its identity. "These discussions could lead to a structural strengthening... on the basis of mutual participation in products, product development and the production process." A strengthening of the equity position was also being considered.

Daf is understood to be seeking about £300 million to restore its balance sheet. However, it is likely that a potential partner could also purchase stock from some existing holders. The Van Doorne family still has 11 per cent of the Daf business and is apparently keen to retain an association with it.

British Aerospace is the single shareholder with 16 per cent of the ordinary equity, and is thought to be willing to dispose of its shares. Bae ac-

quired the stake when it bought its Rover car subsidiary, which had earlier merged its Leyland lorry business with Daf.

That merger gave Daf a lorry plant at Leyland, Lancashire, and the Sherpa van plant in Birmingham. Together, these employ about 6,000 people. The deal gave Daf a strong position in the UK market; it has thus been vulnerable to the collapse of British lorry sales over the past two years.

That sales slump has been compounded by weakness in every big European market except Germany, where demand for lorries has been increased by unification.

Daf's share of the European market lags those of Daimler-Benz, Iveco, and the Renault-Volvo alliance. However, in the first half, the company achieved a modest increase in its share of the market for vehicles over 3.5 tonnes, to 7.7 per cent. It sold 12,210 lorries. Sales of 10,875 vans increased its share of that market to 2.7 per cent.

In Britain, Daf's share of the lorry market rose to 24.8 per cent, and in the Netherlands and Belgium it also improved, to 30.2 per cent and 16.1 per cent.

The strongest progress, however, was in Germany, a market four times as large as Britain, where Daf increased its share from 1.5 to 2.4 per cent. Overall, revenues fell by 2.9 per cent to £12.18 billion, largely because of lower sales of special products and spares.

Daf said profits remained under pressure. It expected to break even in the second half.



Marking time: Albrecht Eckell (left) and Max Dietrich Kley of BASF grapple with rising costs that leave doubts about a real upturn in profits

German earnings hit by mark

SOME of Germany's leading companies gave notice yesterday that the strong mark is hitting exports and foreign earnings, as corporate profits begin to level off after years of strong growth (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

Daimler-Benz, Europe's largest industrial group and flagship of German industry, has downgraded its profit forecast for this year, despite a surprisingly strong performance in the first half.

The motor, defence and electronics group reported a 16 per cent rise in net profits to DM1.02 billion - better than had been anticipated by the markets - but the performance was due mainly to a 17 per cent fall in the tax charge.

The company said profits for the whole year would remain at last year's level of DM1.96 billion, while pre-tax profits were expected to fall.

Mannesmann, the engineering company, last week reported an 89 per cent fall in profits, for which the company blamed the high mark exchange rate among other factors.

BASF, one of the world's top chemical companies, said the development of the dollar's exchange rate in the last few weeks would add to the pressure, after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits from DM1.55 billion to DM970 million for the first half.

The company said: "Rising staff costs, and especially rising costs for environmental protection as well as a fall-off in business in the summer holiday months, leave little hope for a fundamental improvement in the earnings situation."

Volkswagen, the third large German company to report results yesterday, appeared the most optimistic, despite a fall in operating profits and parent net profits. Group net profits for the first six months were below analysts' expectations, at DM 445 million compared to DM433 million previously.

Market share in Germany during the first seven months of the year rose from 26.6 per cent to 28.7 per cent, ahead of General Motors, its closest competitor, whose share fell from 18.1 per cent to 16.7 per cent. VW remains optimistic on the assumption of an improvement in worldwide car sales in 1993.

Rival managers' groups to bid for Coal subsidiary

By Our Industrial Correspondent

TWO rival management-led consortia are drawing up plans to bid for Coal Products, a British Coal subsidiary with interests including smokeless fuel, building products and schemes to generate power from landfill gas. Three outside groups are also believed to be interested in parts of the company.

David Foster, head of operations at Coal Products, is believed to be putting together a consortium that would focus on coke and smokeless fuel but include the company's interest in building products such as waterproof membranes. Mr Foster's group is believed to be keen to involve employees.

Another group is headed by Steve O'Donoghue, who resigned as finance director four weeks ago to join the British Coal privatisation team headed by Ken Moses, group deputy chairman and strategic planning director.

Mr O'Donoghue is believed to be planning a management purchase of the coke and smokeless fuels business only. Mr Moses said British Coal would look favourably on a bid involving employees, but had a duty to get as much for Coal Products as possible. "If somebody makes a satisfactory offer for the whole company we could not ignore it, but I believe we are likely to get better value for the businesses separately," he said.

In total, five groups have exchanged confidentiality agreements with British Coal after expressing an interest in all or part of the business, according to a report in the newsletter Coal UK.

Coal Products has almost 1,000 employees but numbers will be slimmed in 600 this year when the closure of the Avenue works at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, which makes Sunbrite fuel, is completed.

The closure will reduce annual sales to about £120 million and is expected to return Coal Products to a healthy level of profitability.

Hamburg yard to repair QE2

By A Correspondent

THE luxury liner QE2, laid up after running aground off the American coast three weeks ago, will cross the Atlantic to Hamburg for repairs, Cunard, its owner, said yesterday.

The company said Blohm & Voss, the Hamburg shipyard, was chosen from several bidders on the grounds of cost and speed at which the work could be completed.

Temporary repairs to the ship's keel and hull are being carried out in Boston before she sails to Hamburg. Cunard executives would not publicly put a price on the repairs but sources in Boston set the cost at about £15 million.

The liner is expected to return to service for a seven-day cruise starting on October 4. An official investigation into the grounding ended yesterday.

Cannon Street slumps to loss

Cannon Street Investments, the troubled mini-conglomerate, has been hit by a new accounting standard on goodwill that has sent pre-tax losses at the halfway stage spiralling to £21.5 million. The group made an operating loss for the six months to end-June of £2.1 million, against a £9.8 profit last year, but exceptional profits on disposals took the outcome before the goodwill transfer to a £1.9 million profit.

However, under the newly introduced Financial Reporting Standard 2, the group must transfer goodwill written off to reserves relating to disposals to the profit and loss account. The resulting charge of £23.4 million was responsible for the large bottom-line loss.

The transfer has not affected shareholders' funds. Turnover fell from £141.5 million to £127 million. There is no interim dividend (3.3p). The company said that while funds raised from the disposals had reduced borrowings from £92.4 million to £55.3 million, the continuing operations have continued to incur losses.

Start-ups are still popular

People are still keen to start small businesses despite the recession, according to National Westminster Bank estimates.

The number of people contacting local enterprise agencies (LEAs) rose 30 per cent in the first quarter of the year compared with the last three months of 1991.

NatWest's estimates are based on 4,500 interviews conducted by managers seconded as business counsellors to LEAs. The number of people intending to use redundancy money to start businesses rose 11 per cent over the last quarter of 1991.

Cowie buys

T Cowie bought 7 per cent of the shares in Henlys Group and says it now owns, or has received acceptances for, 28.4 per cent of Henlys. Cowie's hostile bid for Henlys closes on Tuesday.

Trust rises

Scottish Eastern Investment Trust's pre-tax income rose from £6.5 million to £7.7 million in the six months to the end of July and the interim dividend goes up from 0.46p to 0.5p.

Mixed fortunes at Renault and Volvo

By Wolfgang Münchau

THE fortunes of Renault and Volvo, which operate an extensive strategic alliance, were mixed in the first six months of the year, with the French car maker recovering, while its Swedish counterpart slipped further into difficulties.

Volvo said: "Expectations of an improvement in the general economy and in the automotive market have not been realised. Volvo's most important markets were characterised by low unit sales and sharp price competition. Viewed as a whole, no improvement is anticipated in the immediate future."

The company's results showed a net loss, including financial income and expenses, of Kr103 million (£10 million), compared with profits of Kr1.16 billion in the same period last year.

The operating loss widened from Kr559 million to Kr835 million. Volvo's results reflect the difficulties of the Swedish

economy and the slowdown of car sales across Europe, down 1 per cent against the same period a year ago. Volvo cars lost market share in two of Europe's largest markets, Britain and Germany. Its total car sales were down 3.6 per cent to 160,100.

Renault, meanwhile, appears to have recovered after a period of turmoil. Pre-tax profits for the French state-owned company during the period rose from Fr962 million (£101 million) to Fr5.44 billion, on the strength of good car sales.

The company announced last month that it had sold 767,000 cars in the first half, the best achievement in 12 years, raising its European market share from 9.9 per cent to 10.5 per cent.

Yesterday, Renault said that 1992 profits would easily exceed last year's Fr3.08 billion, although profits in the second half of the year would not match those in the first half.

Hambros arm declines



Spörborg warning

CHRISTOPHER Spörborg, chairman of Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency and insurance group, says most of HC's businesses will continue to fall short of a satisfactory return until the housing market is revived.

HC reports a pre-tax loss of £4.64 million (£4.26 million loss) for the six months to end-June, and is declaring a nominal interim dividend of 0.05p. The sale of 49 per cent of Hambro Legal Protection to Hambros plc for £9 million will boost the balance sheet.

Tempos, page 18

Recession weeds out errant directors

By Patricia Tiesan

CONVICTIONS against company directors soared in the year to end-March and are likely to continue climbing as penalties are toughened and recession pushes more companies into insolvency.

According to the September issue of the Institute of Directors' magazine, Director, the number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions against directors all rose. The number of directors successfully prosecuted, either after statutory investigations by the trade department or after official receivers' reports, rose from 301 to 337 in the year to end-March.

Of these, 31 resulted from a DTI investigation, compared with 20 the previous year, and 306 followed a report by an official receiver after insolvency, against 281. The number of custodial sentences that followed a DTI investigation more than doubled from seven to 16, while criminal prosecutions after an official receiver's report showed a 20 per cent rise in convictions to 40 directors.

Andrew Hutchinson, principal re-

search executive at the IoD, blames the rise on the recession-related increase in the number of company insolvencies.

He said this was the first recession where there had been an automatic review of the behaviour of directors after insolvency. He estimates the number of directors disqualified under the Insolvency Act is running at 300 a year.

The Insolvency Act of 1986 increased directors' personal liability for wrongful trading and the Company Directors Disqualification Act of 1986 increased the number of directors disqualified or found unfit to practise as directors.

The Director says the legal minefield for directors has been extended by about 40,000 European Community regulations, which, in addition to Community laws, "are heavily weighted towards the consumer."

Mr Hutchinson gave warning of the growing amount of litigation against directors when their companies commit offences under the Health and Safety at Work Act where, he says, "directors themselves have penalties brought

against them", ranging from fines to disqualification.

Tom Nash of the Director pointed to the recent Offshore Safety Installations Act, relating principally to oil rigs, which came into effect in March and increased the maximum fine that can be imposed by a magistrate from £2,000 to £20,000.

The Director says the number of offences with which a director can be charged is enormous. The Companies Act details more than 200 possible offences and, according to the magazine, the Health and Safety Commission's stricter policing "could lead to unending litigation."

Mr Nash said pressure from employees and consumers had led to a greater tendency for prosecutions.

Britain, he added, is "going more the way of the US", with penalties toughening and fines increasing.

Ironically, the IoD this week revealed plans to study the competence of directors. It hopes the study will provide company chairmen with a method of evaluating potential board directors.

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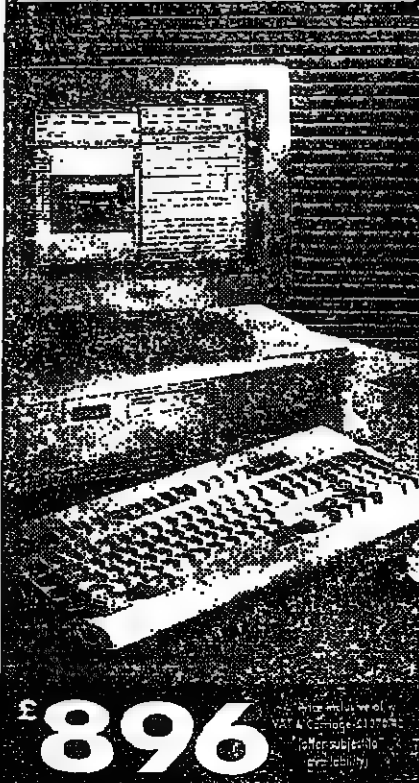
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Without profit in the sombre 1990s

Guardian Royal Exchange, may have been premature in its view that the days of the traditional with-profit insurance policy are numbered. But the insurer has highlighted an issue that more of its rivals and the whole of the long term investment industry must confront if inflation and economic growth remain low for some time. In a low growth, low inflation economic environment spectacular long-run rates of return offered by equity investment will simply not be available to support high reversionary and terminal bonuses which have become a regular feature of the insurance industry. That will not suit the more aggressive marketing men in the industry who have become used to selling their wares with optimistic long term projections of history. They and their customers, who are most likely to be burned in any process of adjustment, should recall the words of the first Henry Ford.

The FT ordinary share index is still well over ten times the level it reached when Burmah Oil went bust in early 1975. The subsequent spectacular growth in the British equity market paved the way for booming returns on all manner of equity-based products. It was relatively easy for the life industry to get away with optimistic projections both internally and for marketing purposes. In the recession hit 1990s the equity market has gone nowhere. According to new research from UBS Phillips & Drew, the implications for the insurance industry may be substantial.

Testing a number of "what-if" possibilities produces the prospect of equity returns broadly the same or worse than those expected from the gilt-edged markets. If real interest rates remain high and real growth and inflation turn out at the lowest end of the expected range, gilts could continue to outperform equities for another five years says the broker. There is a limit to the extent that bonus declarations based on past expectations can continue to be met from reserves. The process of life in the low growth 1990s could be painful for life salesmen and even for those who have opted for endowment mortgages.

New look Lloyd's

Something strange is happening at Lloyd's. People are starting to think of it as an insurance market once again, rather than Britain's longest running farce. The Lloyd's names being quoted in the past few weeks are professional underwriters giving their expert views on the cost of Hurricane Andrew, not aggrieved dissidents venting their spleen. That is not to say that the Lloyd's slate has been wiped clean or that the dissidents did not have a justified case. On the contrary, although Lloyd's may not like to admit it, the painful and highly publicised confrontations of the past two years may just have saved the market from extinction.

The final acts of this great City saga are being played out this weekend. This afternoon, a collective sigh of relief will echo round the room as the expected majority vote on the EGM ballot resolution backing the Council is confirmed. Other resolutions are likely to be used by loss-making names to register protests at the way in which their affairs at Lloyd's have been run in recent years. That is their right and the expressions of discontent should be carefully noted by the new generation of Council members due to take their seats next year.

The other impending announcement from Lloyd's is the final tally of resignations from the market. All the signs are that, come the August 31 deadline, these will be much lower than feared. With the capital base apparently secured, David Rowland, the incoming chairman, can get to grips with his two top priorities, further reform of the market and a resolution of the LMX spiral fiasco.

Has the time come for investors to bail out their own rescue scheme?

Tony Hetherington
takes a look at the
compensation process,
launched in 1988, to
help clients of the
investment industry

The Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS), which was established in 1988 to come to the aid of clients of corrupt or mismanaged investment businesses, enters its fifth year this week with all the appearances of being sorely in need of aid itself.

Claims in the past year have more than trebled, from £11 million in 1990-1 to an estimated £37 million for the year to March. The scheme has lost the insurance cover that picked up the bill once the claims for one year topped £25 million. And Fimbra, the watchdog body that monitors independent financial advisers and accounts for by far the largest number of claims, is quite unable to meet its contribution to the compensation fund.

Couple these internal factors with outside criticism that the scheme is too limited, too harsh in its interpretation of its rules, and too open to misconception by the public as a provider of blank cheques, and it is little or no wonder that the ICS is undergoing a fundamental review that may well see it emerge as the operator of something more akin to the anti-terrorist levy imposed on airport users.

The scheme was introduced as a natural consequence of the Financial Services Act 1986. If firms in the financial services industry were to be licensed and regulated, the argument went, then their clients should be reassured that if their money was mismanaged, or the manager emptied the till and fled to Brazil, the industry itself would come to the rescue.

The rescue was not without its limitations, though. In the first place, the ICS itself had to declare formally that a firm was in default. This might involve lengthy investigations. Then, payments were restricted to 100 per cent of the first £30,000 invested, plus 90 per cent of the next £20,000 — so no one investor could receive more than £48,000. And the total cost of the scheme was not to exceed £100 million a year.

The ceiling of £48,000 on individual claims has attracted regular criticism. Jean Eaglesham, a financial specialist with the Consumers' Association, said: "We have consistently said that the limit should be index-linked, year on year. We are looking for £100,000 as a starting point. That does not necessarily mean paying out 100 per cent of £100,000; there could be some tapering. But that level is a realistic reflection of the amounts people invest."

Her view is supported by Eversheds' Alexander Tatham, a Manchester firm of solicitors that has carved a niche for itself in handling claims for investor compensation.



Investors' best friend: Richard Lawson, ICS's new chairman, faces about 1,500 claims in the pipeline

Anthony Gold, a partner in the firm, believes the £48,000 cap on claims has become seriously out of line with reality.

"People investing on retirement have often accumulated sums substantially in excess of this," he said. "There seems no good reason why a cap of that level should be in operation, other than, of course, the difficulties in getting members of the self-regulatory organisations to agree to it being raised." The self-regulatory organisation most often mentioned as opposing any increase in the limit on claims is Fimbra. Last year, Fimbra instigated a High Court case to establish whether the compensation scheme was obliged to meet claims from people who invested before August 1988, when the final stages of the Financial Services Act took effect.

A grey area had existed, catching people who had invested after December 1986, when only the early stages of the Act applied. The result of the High Court action was not clear cut. Some early investors have been covered, and some have not. Much depends on whether there was continuing advice and management,

rather than an isolated contact between investor and adviser.

The Consumers' Association was shocked at the verdict. Ms Eaglesham said: "We were appalled. The Securities & Investments Board had actually stated that you did not need to be a bed-and-breakfast investor to be covered. That advice turned out to be plain wrong. We would like to see the position put back by statute to what everyone thought it

investors in doubt as to whether they are covered by the scheme should consider a bed-and-breakfast deal — selling their investments and buying them back next day to get a current date on the contract note.

Patrick Brennan, deputy chairman of ICS, said: "At least renew the investment advice. It is in investors' interests to get that renewed so it falls within the period of the scheme."

As claims rise, and levies on firms in the financial services industry rise to meet them, ICS officials privately express grave doubts about the structure of the scheme and the industry's ability to go on putting its hand in its pocket when a new scandal or bankruptcy arises. Only a minority of high profile cases hit the headlines.

Robert Miller, jailed for six years after stealing £8 million from clients of Dunsdale Securities, his Park Lane company, has so far cost the scheme more than £4 million in compensation payments. But for every Dunsdale, there are a dozen or more small firms that simply go broke out of the public eye, leaving debts of six figures or less.

Each levy imposed on the remaining financial companies makes it

'Each levy on the remaining financial companies makes it more likely that they in turn will fail, or simply leave the industry'

was, and what the SIB advised it was that if you had your money with an authorised firm when the scheme began, you were covered."

Officials of the ICS itself are not unsympathetic. There is evidence that in some instances they have found ways to compensate investors whose claims might have failed under a rigid interpretation of the High Court ruling.

They do now advise, though, that

more likely that they in turn will fail, or simply leave the industry. The current year is likely to be the last in which the present system of covering compensation costs persists.

Patrick Brennan said: "There is an awareness that the basis for financing the compensation scheme is unsatisfactory. In the end, the ordinary investor has to pay. He may do so through paying higher commission rates and higher charges, or he may do so by some alternative to be devised, where there is a surcharge made whenever an investment transaction takes place."

Godfrey Jilling, Fimbra's chief executive, has been lobbying hard for changes that will take some of the burden from the shoulders of his members. He said: "At the moment, you have a system which falls unfairly on the independent financial adviser."

We have had some support in the past two years from the insurance industry, which has made a contribution to cover anything above the first £5 million which IFAs have had to pay. That has been a statesmanlike and responsible approach from the insurance industry. We have always maintained that you should actually skim a fraction off all new business. My calculations are that it would be somewhere between 10p and 30p per £100 of product cost."

Since the life companies, unit trust managers and so on are unlikely to want to dip into their profits, such a skimming will clearly involve an increase in the re-investment price of investment products and so on.

There are few signs that Richard Lawson, appointed chairman of the scheme on August 1, will find the workload diminishing. Twelve investment businesses have been declared in default since the ICS drew up its last accounts. Still in the pipeline are an expected 1,500 claims from mainly elderly people who were sold equity-linked home income plans, a form of mortgage investment that has backedered expensively.

Mr Jilling makes the point that when he laid the foundations for the Financial Services Act, Professor Jim Gower recommended that compensation funding should be spread evenly across the industry, and ultimately financed by the ordinary investor. Neither of these two proposals came to pass, he complains.

"At the end of the day, we want a scheme which is robust and well funded," he says. "At the same time, it is also down to regulators like me to ensure that there are few claims on the compensation scheme, by more effective regulation."

If, when the review of ICS funding is complete, the ordinary investor does face an identifiable levy whenever buying a few unit trusts, it is unlikely the man in the street will be happy with anything less than near-perfection in policing the financial services sector. And that could well lead to renewed calls for a securities and exchange commission, government funded and with widespread powers, which would sweep away the very self-regulatory organisations that generated the compensation scheme in the first place.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

McKinnon to join Citibank

NEIL McKinnon, chief economist and head of investment strategy at Yamaichi, surprised his Japanese bosses yesterday afternoon by handing them his letter of resignation. McKinnon, one of the best known and most popular of all the City's economists, has accepted an offer of a job from the American giant Citibank, as its principal European spokesman on currency, interest rates and economic strategy. He is due to take up the new post on September 28 and in so doing he will replace Paul Clerk, who left Citibank two months ago to join UBS Phillips & Drew. "This is a very important appointment for us," says McKinnon's new boss, Julian Simmonds. "It is a very customer-driven job and yes, we did make discrete enquiries with our clients. Neil also went through a grueling interview process and he won unanimous support. We operate in a very collegiate style and so it was important that everyone accepted him."

Ever hopeful

GRAHAM Sawyer, once a Parisian disc jockey, and more recently in the news — page two of the *Sunday Sport* in fact — for having his 88-year-old grandmother as his campaign manager when he contested Barnsley West and Penistone constituency on behalf of the Conservative party, has now turned his attention to the business world. Sawyer, aged 31, has landed a temporary job as a recruitment consultant



companies in the communications and pharmaceutical sectors. "Over 20 per cent of companies said they were experiencing difficulties recruiting in certain areas," says Sawyer. "Information technology and computing people are much in demand as are those involved in top level accountancy and finance."

Tourists bored

AS THE Queen prepares to pay income tax and the marital difficulties of her children continue to receive maximum publicity, it seems that the pulling power of the royal family as a tourist attraction may be beginning to falter. Thames & Chilterns Tourist Board, which counts Windsor Castle and Blenheim Palace among its attractions, has gone bust. Smith & Williamson's insolvency specialist Mike Oldham, yesterday appointed liquidator to the board, estimates its deficit at £359,624 and says, "Perhaps the Fergie issue came too late." The board, believed to be the first ever to go into liquidation, first publicly signalled its difficulties in June when John Bethall, its chief executive, resigned. A month later his chief accountant was dismissed, accused of "gross misconduct" and now all 42 remaining employees will be made redundant. According to Oldham the root of the problem — as with so many other recession-hit companies — was the board's new head office in Whitney, Oxfordshire, bought and refurbished at a cost of £500,000 and now worth just £350,000.

CAROL LEONARD

Why fusty commercial leases are in need of overhaul

From Mr E. S. Cooke
Sir, Your correspondent M. D. T. Evans writes (Business Times, August 19) of the inequities of what he calls "clear leases" of commercial premises. He blames landlords and their solicitors for drafting "standard leases" which the tenant is expected to sign. He writes of tenants as if they were the only businessmen in the landlord and tenant relationship.

A landlord has as much if not more capital invested in the premises as the tenant has in his business. Both can and regularly do protect their interests by taking legal advice.

However keen a landlord may be to agree terms, there is usually a point beyond which he cannot go in negotiations, in case the lease falls the test of institutional acceptability.

Whether it is reasonable or not to have a rent capable of review upwards or downwards or a break clause in the tenant's favour after ten years (of a 25-year term) the landlord will be advised to reject it because his lease, according to the values, then becomes institutionally unacceptable.

In other words, a property investing institution would be unlikely to purchase the freehold reversion, thus blighting

the value of the landlord's investment for all purposes.

In my view, until there is some relaxation in these institutional norms there is little chance of any meaningful modernisation of commercial leases. It may surprise Mr Evans to know that there are landlords and their solicitors who would welcome a breath of fresh air in this fusty legacy of the 1960s and 70s.

Yours faithfully,
E. S. COOKE
(Solicitor, Head of Commercial Property),
Lawrence Tuckett,
Shannon Court,
Corn Street, Bristol.

Stock Exchange should talk, not dictate, to private shareholders

From Mr Henry Bear
Sir, Miss Gill Ackers, chief press officer of the London Stock Exchange (Business Letters, August 13) has jumped into the bull-ring ill-advisedly, or was she pushed?

We have had assurances from Sir Andrew Hough Smith, chairman (April 5) and from Mr Watson, project director (July 23), so with due respect, we need no more platitudes and promises from their press office, except in as much as we have, through the courtesy of your columns, established an ongoing line of communication.

The "fundamental misunderstanding" which Miss Ackers has tried to write into Dr Paxton's letter (August 6) is perhaps understandable because it is in the minds of the Taurus promoters in the Stock Exchange. In their striving for more power — possibly more income for their members — they have completely misunderstood their relationship with plc shareholders, many of whom have never even used a stockbroker. It is well that the

Stock Exchange puts its own house in order. If there are frailties in the system, but that does not entitle it to dictate to plc shareholders. The government, it seems, was persuaded to include in the 1989 Companies Act amendments to previous Acts to permit plcs to amend their Articles of Association to enter for Taurus, but the mere fact that it is optional indicates that the Stock Exchange must be careful not to trespass on common law rights.

If Sir Andrew has a new two-day electronic settlement system ready for 1993, which he believes will increase efficiency and reduce costs, and which is already accepted in principle by institutional investors, then let him as head of its market-place — which is, after all, a commercial undertaking — offer that system to the private investors. Those who, like the institutions, spend their lives selling each other blocks of shares they no longer like, may find it attractive. The true private investor will, I suspect, prefer to stay

with the present system, especially as, through building societies, banks and share centres, it is becoming more customer-oriented.

As private investors are reported to own less than 25 per cent of all plcs, it stands to reason that their chances of defeating the institutional vote at an AGM are slim. If, therefore, Sir Andrew persists in this way, in trying to impose his dictatorial monopoly on private shareholders, against their will, the battle will inevitably go to the courts. Enough has already been said on which to base meaningful discussions, so why not talk now and let private investors see that they really have been, and still are, of paramount importance, as we are so regularly told. After all, no one wants another insensitive handling disaster like the poll tax and the exchange-rate mechanism.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY F. BEAR,
Clare Cottage,
Breda,
East Sussex.

True figures for overdraft lending

From Mr Erich Gluch
Sir, May I correct Mr G. B. Miller's calculations ("Bank's greed depresses borrowing", August 19) concerning the difference between the overdraft rates of National Westminster Bank and Deutsche Bank in Germany.

Mr Miller is surprised that the British bank charges him approximately 8 per cent more for an agreed overdraft and 16.5 per cent more for an unarranged overdraft than a German bank although the bank rates in the two countries differ by only 0.25 per cent. The right figures for the difference are in fact nearly 41

per cent and 88 per cent.

On an agreed overdraft of £1,000 for a full year NatWest charges £232 and Deutsche Bank £165 — and £232 is nearly 41 per cent more than £165. For unarranged overdrafts the banks charge £376 and £200 respectively — an 88 per cent difference!

As a German I would not dream of suggesting the reason for this huge difference. Yours faithfully,
ERICH GLUCH,
c/o IFO Institute of Economic Research,
Foschingerstr. 5,
8000 München 86, Germany.

KfW's role in financing capital projects

From Mr E. Loevy
Sir, Your excellent article, by Wolfgang Münchau (Business Times, August 18) about the German KfW organisation could, usefully, have mentioned another valuable function performed by that organisation, namely the financing of capital projects in the Third World countries.

As a consulting engineer I have been responsible for some large projects in South East Asia whose partial fi-

nancing by KfW with the Asian Development Bank has greatly assisted successful completion both administratively and technologically. Such activity, although not among the original functions of KfW, became widespread with beneficial results.

Yours faithfully,
E. LOEY,
"Swanwood",
Highwood,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.

Taurus inhibits wider share ownership

From Dr John Paxton
Sir, When I started the Taurus correspondence some weeks ago, I suggested that it might well be against the private investors' interest.

The letter from Mr Gates (August 20) pinpoints my main objection — cost. The commercial account controller is not going to undertake the job for nothing and, judging by the banks' pickpocket character that they have adopted in recent years of charging £5

here and £10 there, the dividends of small investors will soon be eaten up. End of wider share ownership? Yours faithfully,
JOHN PAXTON,
Moss Cottage,
Hardway,
Somerset.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Entered by Vaughan Williams's rehearsal. He had every note the fore in Backbeat, about the you see how?

THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 28 1992

[illegible]

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1. Pflanzung	Industrial	1.10	0.05	4.5%
2. Wicks	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
3. Remond	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
4. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
5. Craghead	Industrial	1.10	0.05	4.5%
6. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
7. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
8. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
9. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
10. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
11. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
12. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
13. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
14. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
15. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
16. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
17. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
18. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
19. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
20. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
21. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
22. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
23. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
24. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
25. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
26. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
27. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
28. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
29. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
30. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
31. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
32. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
33. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
34. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
35. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
36. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
37. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
38. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
39. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
40. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
41. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
42. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
43. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
44. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
45. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
46. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
47. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
48. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
49. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
50. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
51. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
52. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
53. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
54. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
55. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
56. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
57. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
58. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
59. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
60. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
61. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
62. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
63. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
64. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
65. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
66. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
67. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
68. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
69. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
70. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
71. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
72. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
73. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
74. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
75. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
76. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
77. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
78. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
79. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
80. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
81. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
82. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
83. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
84. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
85. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
86. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
87. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
88. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
89. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
90. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
91. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
92. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
93. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
94. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
95. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
96. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
97. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
98. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
99. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
100. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
101. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
102. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
103. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
104. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
105. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
106. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
107. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
108. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
109. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
110. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
111. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
112. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
113. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
114. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
115. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
116. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
117. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
118. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
119. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
120. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
121. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
122. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
123. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
124. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
125. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
126. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
127. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
128. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
129. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
130. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
131. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
132. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
133. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
134. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
135. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
136. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
137. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
138. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
139. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%
140. Smeets	Chemicals	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Tokyo helps boost prices

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on Monday. Dealings end September 4. Settlement day September 7. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1. Nippon Steel	1.10	0.05	4.5%
2. Sumitomo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
3. Daiwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
4. Industrial Bank of Japan	1.10	0.05	4.5%
5. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
6. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
7. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
8. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
9. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
10. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Price	Yield	P/E
11. Nippon Steel	1.10	0.05	4.5%
12. Sumitomo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
13. Daiwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
14. Industrial Bank of Japan	1.10	0.05	4.5%
15. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
16. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
17. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
18. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
19. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
20. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Price	Yield	P/E
21. Nippon Steel	1.10	0.05	4.5%
22. Sumitomo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
23. Daiwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
24. Industrial Bank of Japan	1.10	0.05	4.5%
25. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
26. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
27. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
28. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
29. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
30. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Price	Yield	P/E
31. Nippon Steel	1.10	0.05	4.5%
32. Sumitomo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
33. Daiwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
34. Industrial Bank of Japan	1.10	0.05	4.5%
35. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
36. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
37. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
38. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
39. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
40. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%

Company	Price	Yield	P/E
41. Nippon Steel	1.10	0.05	4.5%
42. Sumitomo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
43. Daiwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
44. Industrial Bank of Japan	1.10	0.05	4.5%
45. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
46. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
47. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%
48. Sanwa	1.10	0.05	4.5%
49. Tokai-Mitsubishi	1.10	0.05	4.5%
50. Fuyo	1.10	0.05	4.5%

FINANCIAL TRUSTS									
187	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1
188	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1
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303	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1
304	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1
305	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1	10/1
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INFOTECH TIMES

The soft sell with a hard centre

Computer prices may be falling, but savings could be lost by buying the wrong software packages, Clive Couldwell reports

Cut-throat competition in the recession is sending computer prices tumbling, yet many customers are paying more for their software than the cost of their PCs. They may even be buying "bargain" packages that are unsuitable. The cost of a PC has fallen dramatically, as inexpensive computers, made in the Far East, have come on to the market. In turn, this has spurred Western manufacturers to re-negotiate prices with their component suppliers and review their distribution methods. Their aim is to cut overheads so that price cutting does not make too big a dent in their profit margins.

Computer manufacturers have been able to make their standardised equipment stand out only by offering increasingly sophisticated features at the same price, or less. For some time, software companies have realised that combining the cost of a computer with a popular software package is one way to bestow a certain "unique-

ness" on the computer being sold. By selling directly to the computer manufacturers, the software companies have been able to distribute large volumes of software for a fraction of the normal cost.

This approach to buying an integrated computer "system" has found its appeal with smaller corporate purchasers, who would

Software companies realise that the gravy train can't go on for much longer

otherwise have to pay more by acquiring the items separately from a range of different sources.

However, there are dangers with this kind of purchasing approach. Software sold cheaply without the appropriate support from a dealer can turn a purchase into a disaster. Buying the wrong type of software for the business, just because it is part of a low-cost package, can often turn out to be a costly error.

"Don't compare the price of software with the price of the machine," says Clive Rees, a marketing manager for Computer Associates, one of the world's largest software suppliers. "You really need something you know is going to work."

Unlike the professional systems market, which survives by its ability to offer extensive after-sales support to often experienced, computer-literate customers, consumers at the less expensive end of the market are often new to computing and need more hands-on help from the suppliers.

The only people who will be able to sell inexpensive software in the volumes necessary to make some kind of profit will be the computer supermarkets, now gaining a foothold in Britain.

The supermarkets are good for the software companies because they are able to accommodate the large displays required to shift volume," says Jeffrey Goldberg, a software analyst with Dataquest Europe.

The success of mail order and



Windows of opportunity: you need to check that those "bargain" software packages are really suitable for your system

other direct sales approaches — exemplified in companies such as Dell, which sells computers, software and support by telephone — is putting the conventional dealer channel under even more pressure. "Some companies are wondering how much longer they can

remain in the software business," says Jeremy Davies, a senior partner at the information consultancy, Comext. "They realise the gravy train can't go on for much longer. Many corporate deals are now being negotiated at heavily discounted rates, sometimes as much

as 80 to 85 per cent of the original list price. Once registered as a bona fide user with the package supplier, the customer can upgrade the software at a fraction of the original price. For many software packages, the price bears little relation to cost but

is what suppliers think the market will bear. "Once you've created a software product and paid for its development costs, the rest of it is gravy. You are paying for floppy disks and paper, that's about it," Mr Davies says.

Personal services

DIGITAL Equipment, the world's second-largest computer company, is to return to making personal computers. At the moment, the company sub-contracts PC production to Tandy, Olivetti and Intel.

Market analysts suggest that while Digital has a strong customer base for mini-computers, many of these users went to other companies when shopping for personal computers.

Earlier this year, the company started test-marketing its own machines in Asia, Australia, South America and Canada. The new computers, which will not be sold in Europe, will be IBM-compatible and cost from around £500.

Farmyard robots JAPAN is planning to develop robot farm workers to take the place of the millions of humans abandoning the land for jobs in cities.

The idea is to produce a farmer robot that would plant and harvest crops under remote control by a human handler.

It would be equipped with various sensors enabling it to perform a wide variety of functions, and a manipulator that would give it the dexterity of a human hand. The Japanese agriculture ministry, along with private companies and research institutions, wants to begin developing the robot workers in 1994 and hopes to have them in action by 2010.

In the picture

FURTHER equipment and software to run the Photo CD system — which uses compact discs to store photographs taken on traditional film, so that they can be played back on television or computer screens — has been introduced by its developers, Kodak.

Kodak, which says it is working closely with Apple Computers to make it easy for personal computer users to use the system, hopes that Photo CD will help to keep traditional photography viable in an increasingly electronic world, by combining the convenience of electronic manipulation with the as-yet-unmatched quality of pictures from film.

Photo CD will compete with electronic cameras that

record pictures in computer-like memory, rather than on film. These cameras also allow users to show pictures on television screens, but picture quality so far is not as good as film.

Got it taped

A CABLE TV system able to provide a dial-a-film service, home shopping and video phone calls is being planned in the United States by IBM with Tele-Communications, the nation's largest cable TV operator.

It will allow customers to request information or specific programmes from their television sets using special control boxes.

Such offerings might include a video library of thousands of movies and television shows which could be ordered at any time, or interactive educational programmes in

which viewers respond to questions posed on the screen, and have their answers marked.

IBM says it has developed a technology that will enable modified cable systems to send "interactive" video signals over existing cable systems, without the need to rewire homes with high-capacity fibre optic cable — an expensive exercise.

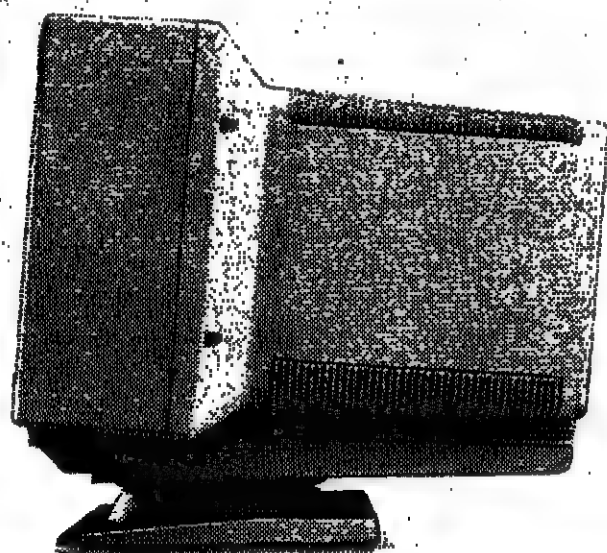
Messy message

A FORMER computer-magazine publisher, who now writes for Star Trek, has been accused of planting a computer virus that tainted thousands of copies of software produced by Aldus.

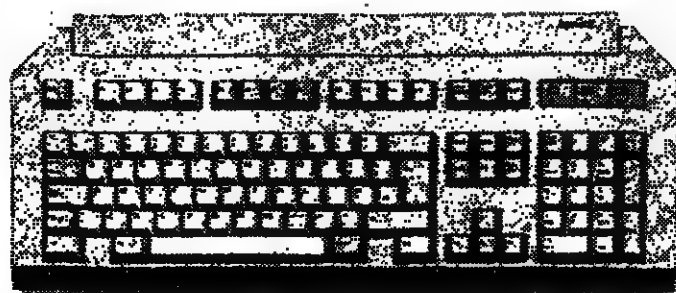
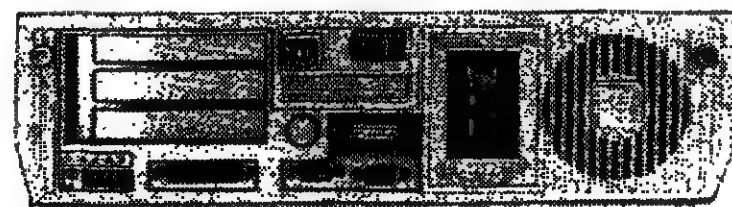
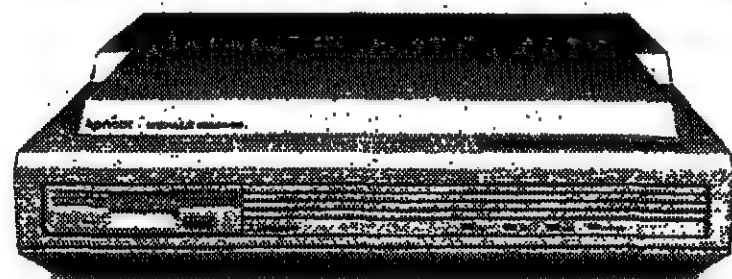
United States prosecutors allege that Richard Brandon, 28, from Montreal, was responsible for the 1988 virus. He could face up to ten years in prison if convicted.

Mr Brandon said he arranged for a computer message to flash briefly on screens wishing peace "to all Macintosh users around the world". He said he included his name in the message so he could be contacted and won an award from the Canadian Software Association, which said his virus encouraged people to stop making pirated copies of software and buy the genuine article.

MATTHEW MAY



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The Times guide to the rugby league season

World Cup offers chance for game to spread its wings

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THIS year's World Cup final between Great Britain and Australia, should be a definitive moment in rugby league's 97-year history. Having established beyond any reasonable doubt its capacity to entertain, the profile the 13-a-side code will enjoy from October's match at Wembley must finally bring down from the hills those fools who have stunted its growth.

Rugby league's four-year satellite deal begins tonight, with BSkyB's live broadcast of Wigan's opening championship game at Sheffield. As always with television, those running the game have been content to roll over and have their tummies tickled. When it comes to the changes necessary to broadening the horizons of the game in general, they remain snarling and defensive.

This resistance has weighed down the development of a sport which ten years ago was talking about the dawn of a flourishing nationwide game, and is still insisting on a bright new age, even now. A decade of wonderful progress on the field, has unfortunately, been met off by indecision, fear, and a failure to grasp any passing nettle.

Apart from introducing a host of skilful players, the authorities expected television to act as a catalyst, much as Channel 4's coverage of American football did for the sport in Britain. But the foundations for rugby league's growth were not laid down, and only half the eight clubs formed since 1980 remain on board, all but Sheffield only just clinging to life.

As one of those instrumental at the Rugby Football League (RFL) in harnessing the growth potential from television, Maurice Lindsay says that having reached stage one of the process some years ago, the change to a more broadly-based sport must now be achieved, starting with the World Cup final.

"We have been guilty of parochialism, of resistance to change and perhaps settling back in our northern nest on occasions," Lindsay said. "But the opportunity presented by the World Cup match is such that if we don't start marketing our game as a business over the next decade, and reach out and establish the game properly outside our so-called traditional areas, then we the authorities will have failed."

His missionary zeal is unlikely to carry wholehearted favour in a prevailing climate of mistrust. But as the most likely successor to David O'Leary as the RFL's chief executive later this year, Lindsay would immediately address two of the biggest problems in the game: unifying the warring professional and amateur bodies, and introducing a capping system to curb runaway player contracts.

With financial realism already returning, as clubs such as Wigan and Widnes reduce their contract payments, the age-old argument for reducing the playing demands of the season also needs a radical approach.

In spite of the money they generate, the unnecessary pressures of out-dated county cup competitions are burdens

that can no longer be tolerated, Malcolm Reilly, the Great Britain coach, believes.

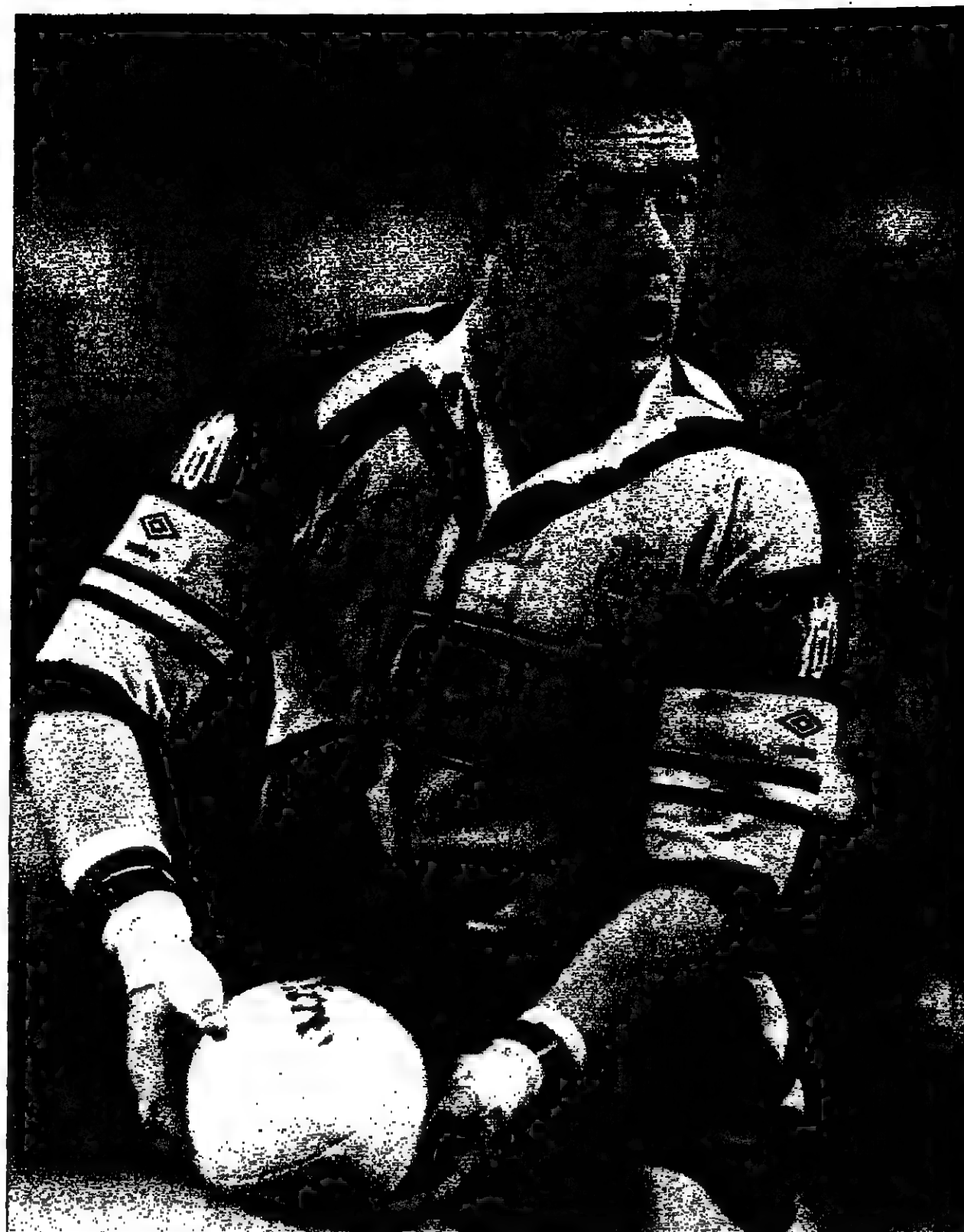
"We can't play twice as many games in a season as Australia and expect to be able to beat them," Reilly said after the summer's 2-1 international series defeat. Britain's best touring record for 22 years was achieved in spite of, rather than because of, the domestic season.

Revenge in the World Cup final on October 24 at Wembley, where Great Britain overcame Australia two years ago, would be the greatest fillip the game could hope to receive, as well as propelling the sport forward.

The recent tour marked the beginning of the end for the international careers of Ellery Hanley and Andy Gregory, but it also established Garry Schofield as a captain of undisputed skill, courage and commitment, and earmarked the young Wigan loose forward, Phil Clarke, as an obvious successor.

Rarely has the game been so generously blessed. Wigan remain its leader, and were further strengthened yesterday by signing for a year the Australian centre, Andrew Farrar, who will arrive after the Wembley Cup competition late next month.

The dominance of Wigan is both awe-inspiring and disturbing. Change in the game would be best served by a more realistic challenge. Leeds have gone full time and believe they have the formula. St Helens and Castleford appear to be stronger, and Widnes or Halifax could also just possibly rewrite a rather dirty script.



Pass master: Schofield emerged from Hanley's shadow and proved a fine captain on Great Britain's tour

CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE FIRST DIVISION

Bradford Northern

Coach: Peter Fox.
Transfer: In: Trevor Clark (Preston, £10,000); David Heron (Leeds, £10,000); Brian Hobbs (Preston, £10,000); David Wilson (overseas contract, £25,000). Out: Phil Connors (Dewsbury, £10,000); Richard Trevelyan (Hull, £10,000); John Pendlebury (Leigh, £10,000).
1991-2 record: Championship: 11th. Challenge Cup: semi-final. Regal Trophy: 3rd.
Prospect: The wily Fox played Northern up from their basement last season. Relegation was narrowly avoided. Like the coach, a team big in character, if short on overall quality. A large, dependable pack and a few pace outside should ensure an improved mid-table placing.
Betting: 100-1.

Castleford

Coach: Cyril Van de Velde.
Transfer: In: Peter Coyne (overseas contract, Sydney, £10,000); Tony Morrison (Swinton, £10,000); Dean Williams (York, £10,000); Gary Atkins (York, £10,000); Ian Bragg (Doncaster).
1991-2 record: Championship: 3rd. Challenge Cup: 3rd. Regal Trophy: 3rd.
Prospect: Long-time underachievers, now fully capable of honours. Van de Velde's fifth and final year in charge. Graham Steadman and Lee Crooks are close to their vintage. The addition of Peter Coyne, an Australian, at stand-off will supplement a tactical kicking game, which could successfully engage the most potent of attacking forces.
Betting: 15-2.

Halifax

Coach: Roger Milward.
Transfer: In: John Bentley and Gary Dwyer (both Leeds, £10,000); Paul Bishop (St Helens, £10,000). Out: Will George and Steve Smith (both Batley); Seamus McCollon (Leeds, £10,000).
1991-2 record: Championship: 7th. Challenge Cup: 3rd. Regal Trophy: 1st.
Prospect: Dark horses who could well make a decent go of the title. After a satisfactory first season, Milward has invested wisely this summer. Bentley's pace out wide adds another attacking dimension to a fast and creative backline, although the defence and pack will need to improve significantly.
Betting: 50-1.

Hull Kingston Rovers

Coach: Royce Simmons.
Transfer: In: James Grant and Scottie Scarbrough (both Leeds, £10,000); Ian Hendrik (overseas contract, Sydney, £10,000); Mark Cess and Lee Hanlon (both Batley); Greg Mackay (Warrington); David Johnson and Peter Spring (both Swinton).
1991-2 record: Championship: 12th. Challenge Cup: semi-final. Regal Trophy: 2nd.
Prospect: After the dismissal of fellow Australian, Noel Ciel, last season, Simmons lost a fly half. He has the benefit of a solid set of forwards, but his Irish Australian contingent will have to live an often lumpy existence if there is not to be another relegation struggle.
Betting: 50-1.

Leigh

Coach: Jim Griffin.
Transfer: In: Tony Burke (Warrington, £10,000); John Ellis (overseas contract, Batley, £10,000); Mark Moran (Salford, £10,000); Keith Newton, Duncan Platt, Tim Strat (all Oldham, exchange); John Pendlebury (Bradford, £20,000); Stuart Pugsley (Whitworth).
1991-2 record: Championship: 2nd. Divisional Premiership: 2nd. Regal Trophy: preliminary rd.
Prospect: The longest of long shots. On the verge of folding last year, Leigh pulled themselves under their own boot and won promotion. A season was needed, the row numbers on, and Griffin has whittled down for a large set of forwards, who will need to perform sterling defensive service if the club is not to drop straight back down.
Betting: 100-1.

Salford

Coach: Kevin Tamm.
Transfer: In: Jason O'Leary and Steve Wynne (Widnes, exchange); Andy Fairclough (St Helens, exchange); Out: Adrian Hadley (Widnes), Mark Moran (Leigh), Joe Walsh (Chorley).
1991-2 record: Championship: 9th. Challenge Cup: 2nd. Regal Trophy: 1st.
Prospect: A club in financial deep waters, and faced as one of the two to sink into the second division. Fairclough worked wonders in ensuring survival last time. Playing reductio ad absurdum, with the archaic system to remain on developing emerging talent.
Betting: 150-1.

Sheffield Eagles

Coach: Gary Haffington.
Transfer: In: Paul Carr (overseas contract, Hull, £10,000); Neil James (Leeds); Gary Jack (overseas contract, Batley); Bruce McGuire (overseas contract, Castleford); Out: David Closs (Castleford).
1991-2 record: Championship: 2nd. Divisional Premiership: 2nd. Regal Trophy: 2nd.
Prospect: Likely to soar on their return to the top flight, but could have a few playing heights, particularly with the inclusion of Gary Jack, the former Australian international full back. Plenty of running from David Powell and David Moore, but somewhat suspect up front.
Betting: 100-1.

St Helens

Coach: Mike McClennan.
Transfer: In: Chris Joynt (Oldham, exchange); Jason McCracken (overseas contract, Canterbury, £10,000); Jason O'Leary (Salford, exchange); Out: Paul Bishop (Leigh); Sean Davies; Neil James (Leigh); Andy Fairclough (Salford).
1991-2 record: Championship: 2nd. Challenge Cup: 2nd. Regal Trophy: 1st.
Prospect: Already championing at the 13-a-side level in the Cheshire Shield. Appointing better players to play the course this time, and McClennan could collect at least one more piece of silverware in the farewell season. Fresh creativity at half back, immense pace outside and Kevin Ward is the inspirational linchpin of a rugged pack.
Betting: 7-2.

Warrington

Coach: Brian Johnson.
Transfer: In: Steve Griffin (Blackpool); Greg Mackay (Hull, £10,000); Rick Chadwick (Widnes, exchange); Out: Tony Burke (Leigh); Martin Crompton (Wigan); Gary Moror (Leeds).
1991-2 record: Championship: 4th. Challenge Cup: 2nd. Regal Trophy: 1st.
Prospect: Invariably a team on the verge of collapse, but all Greg Mackay's organisational skills at the half back position are unlikely to inspire anything other than a typically glib challenge. Inefficient quality throughout to mount a really serious championship threat. Much will hinge on the return to fitness of the captain, Mike Gregory.
Betting: 25-1.

Widnes

Coach: John Morris.
Transfer: In: Martin Crompton (Warrington, £25,000); Andrew Farrar (overseas contract, Western Suburbs); Out: Andy Gregory (Leeds); Gary Miles (Aldershot); Augustine O'Donnell (St Helens); Mark Walsby (Swinton).
1991-2 record: Championship: 1st. Challenge Cup: 1st. Regal Trophy: 1st.
Prospect: The trick is never to be deceived. Wigan have the problem, identified last season, of having lost key players. They began slowly and finished like an express train. The ultimate team, with huge strength in depth. Moror's swarming season at Central Park may be his toughest, but few really doubt it will not be triumphant.
Betting: 4-7.

Weekend at trials won

ISABELLA Smith is the winner of *The Times* competition offering the first prize of a weekend for two people at the Blenheim/Audi horse trials on September 5 and 6 and a Constellation watch from Omega, the official timekeeper at the trials.

Miss Smith, who is 18 years old and a member of a family with five horses, lives at Dunstall Green, Stonehill Road, Chobham, Surrey. She and a friend will be the guests of Omega at the trials.

ANSWER: 1. Karen Dixon; 2. Andrew Nicholson; 3. Alan; 4. Lorna Clarke; 5. West Germany.

THE TIMES

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NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Farnham go out of business

BY WALTER GAMMIE

TWO clubs were expected to begin their rise in the Diadora League third division side at the reopened Recreation Ground in Aldershot. Aldershot Town duly opened their campaign before 1,600 people, a crowd exceeded by only two in the GM Vauxhall Conference, but Farnham Town had to admit defeat before the kick-off and folded.

Farnham had been expected to share the ground until December 1 when work had been completed on their own Memorial Ground but was scuppered when the grants they were offered totalled £18,000 rather than the £80,000 upon which they pinned hopes of raising £1,000.

For the Farnham manager, Ernie Howe, the former Fulham, Queen's Park Rangers and Portsmouth defender, the season instead started as the Woking coach.

"When Geoff Chapple approached me about the job, my first reaction was of disbelief," Howe said. "It's a great step for me. It was said that Farnham folded, but it's something to look forward to. I think I'm a good teacher. I played under some good managers and learnt a bit from all of them. I listened, but didn't go overboard on everything they said, but have taken different people's opinions to form some ideas of my own."

Going to Woking, Howe admitted, returned the sense of big occasion that his footballing life has missed since his playing days. "I can honestly say that my two years at Farnham were the best of my footballing life," he said.

"We went as far as we could and the players were a great bunch. For virtually nothing, they turned up when I wanted them to and did everything I asked of them."

A moral to be learnt is that resources of players, spectators and backers in any area are limited. Farnham, playing in an elegant Surrey town, only had 100 people watching their matches.

Aldershot gained Farnham's three outstanding players, Steve Harris, Steve Slairs, a prolific goalscorer.



Pearce puzzled

and Shaun May. At neighbouring Farnborough Town, only 637 watched the club begin its Conference season by hammering Gateshead 6-1.

Ted Pearce, their manager, is aware that his frequent complaints about the lack of support fall mostly upon the loyal band who do turn up.

Another puzzle for Pearce was the 5-1 defeat at Dagenham and Redbridge on Tuesday. "It just proves there is always a big hole waiting for you to fall into," he said.

Barrie Hobbins, the Welling United secretary, missed only his second match in 27 years on Tuesday, a 3-0 defeat at Wycombe Wanderers, in which the goals were scored after Welling had David Newman sent off for a professional foul. He opted instead to oversee Dartford's match against Chelmsford, a 1-0 win in the Beazer Homes League, at Welling's Park View Road.

Dartford play Halesowen at Welling tomorrow but have yet to reach a ground-sharing agreement for the season after the sale of their Watling Street ground.

"There are three teams in there," Fred Leach, a Dartford official, said. "The banks have got to be paid, plus all the creditors and the legal fees have got to be met. We just have to see what we have left over to see what we can decide on our future."

MOTOR RACING

Ferrari has eyes on Mansell car

TWO important national championships hang in the balance at Silverstone and Brands Hatch this bank holiday (Stephen Slater writes).

If Gil de Ferran, of Brazil, secures the British Formula Three championship on Monday at Silverstone, it will give him an opportunity to test drive the world championship-winning Williams-Renault Formula One car.

Although there are no springs attached to the offer by the Canon Williams team, the fact remains that 12 of the drivers at this weekend's Belgian grand prix once competed in the British Formula Three championship.

"It's certainly some motivation," de Ferran said. "Every driver in the world wants a drive in that car and I'm no exception." He is five points away from securing the title, with four races left.

At Brands Hatch on Monday, the Esso British touring car championship is set to draw capacity crowds, with the championship still wide open. The Vauxhall Cavalier driver, John Clelland, leads the series with a seven-point margin over his team-mate, Jeff Allam. However, Will Hoy, the champion, is just one win from retaining the series lead, but he could be thwarted by Tim Harvey, who has won the last two races.

ICE HOCKEY

Wembley games cause concern

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

return of the Cooper brothers to Cardiff Devils after two successful seasons with Durham Wasps, who are challenging the British Ice Hockey Association definition of an import, claiming that their Canadian-born players eligible to appear for Great Britain, should count as British.

They are, therefore, trying to sign an extra import. Both sides have taken legal advice and this story could rumble on for some time. More immediately, the Wasps have a wonderful opportunity to become the first British team to get past the first round of the European Cup when they face the champions, of Norway, Romania and Spain, at Blackburn in October.

Once again, Ayr Bruins (they have reverted to that name) start the season without

a home and will play, at least until the turn of the year at Paisley rink. It is hoped that their new rink in Ayr, the Centrum, will be ready in January. The Bruins have two new imports, Kevin La Vallee and Len Hachborn, who can boast of more than 500 NHL games between them.

Nottingham Panthers have a similar problem to Ayr. The ice plant in Nottingham has broken down and they will not be able to play or practise there until the middle of October.

They will probably make Humberstone their temporary home.

Sheffield Steelers, who proved in their first season that imaginative and aggressive marketing can attract enormous crowds, will be hoping for continued success following their promotion.

CRICKET

British Assurance county championship 11.0, 110 overs minimum. Derbyshire v Somerset. Durham v Hampshire. Gloucestershire v Lancashire. Nottinghamshire v Oxfordshire. Warwickshire v Yorkshire. Wiltshire v Gloucestershire. Old Trafford: Lancashire v Yorkshire.

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FOOTBALL. 7.30 unless stated. Barclays League. First division. Tranmere v Bristol Rovers. Second division. Hull v Plymouth. Third division. Crewe v Northampton.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

TNT GOLD CUP: Sectional matches. Ayr v Paisley (7.45). Cardiff v Lane (7.45). Colchester v Basingstoke (7.45). Crusaders v Ballymena (7.45). BORD GALS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v St Patrick's Athletic (8.0). NEVILLE O'DONNELL COMMEMORATION: First division: Norwich v Southampton.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES: Bitter Premiership: Sheffield v Wigan (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Scottish Provident League (Aberdeen).

EQUESTRIANISM: Hedgesdon Derby.

GOLF: Murphy's English Open (The Belfry).

SPEEDWAY: Hometown League: Second division: Peterborough v Sheffield.

RACING

Cheveley next for Hannon's star filly

BY MICHAEL SEELY

LYRIC Fantasy, currently rated Europe's top two-year-old after her defeat of Mr Brooks and other older horses in the Keeneland Nunthorpe Stakes, is to have her next race in the Tattersalls Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket on September 30.

Lord Carnarvon's diminutive queen of speed will therefore miss the Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp on Arc day.

"She's already proved herself against the older horses," said her trainer, Richard Hannon, yesterday. "The ground is so often bad in Paris at that time of the year. I've no doubts at all about her getting the extra furlong and that Cheveley Park will be her next race."

Hannon is certainly leaving no stone unturned as he moves relentlessly towards what could be his first trainers' championship. Apart from Lyric Fantasy, he also has Mr Brooks and Shalford as talented members of his team, who are now both to be aimed for the Haydock Park Spring Cup tomorrow week.

"Mr Brooks was a bit sore after York," the trainer went on, "but he's in tremendous form and could well be still improving. He doesn't mind any going and Lester Piggott will ride."

Shalford has not been seen in public since disappointing Hannon by finishing last of seven when favourite for the July Cup.

"He had a throat infection but he's over it and going well. I'd like to give him a racecourse gallop beforehand, perhaps at Salisbury next Thursday."

After Haydock, Mr Brooks is likely to be the stable representative in the Prix de l'Abbaye.

Together with Shalford, the July Cup winner will then be entered for the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Gulfstream Park, the race in which Sheikh Albadou gave the Europeans their first victory on a dirt surface in the Breeders' Cup series last year.

At Lingfield yesterday, Embankment, Hannon's only intended runner and the prospective mount of Michael Roberts, was withdrawn from the Tonbridge Nursery because of the soft going.

In the absence of the favourite, Richard Hills stole a march on his rival jockeys by making every yard of the running on Fairy Story on the far side of the track.

This virtually unknown manoeuvre on Lingfield's grass track was successfully performed by Richard Quinn and Arabusman 13 days ago.

Michael Roberts, having only his fourth mount of the week after taking it easy to rest a knotted muscle in his back, had his first winner during that period when gaining a comfortable victory on the Neil Graham-trained Foolish Heart in the Cranleigh Stakes.

Taylor misses the point with his sound of silence



Taylor: tight-lipped

Graham Taylor is a man of many contradictions but this week he has surprised himself. Throughout a flying visit to Oslo, where he watched England's opening World Cup qualifying opponents, he maintained an obstinate silence, conduct which is unprecedented by any national manager, let alone one so voluble as he.

In waging a cold war with the small group of familiar travellers to Norway, he broke one of his own principles. As the son of a journalist, he has always been conscious of the need for healthy public relations. Indeed, he specialises in them. When he succeeded Bobby

Robson, he determined to clear the mud air which had developed between the England squad and the press during the 1990 World Cup. Every player to be chosen for England was urged to respond to requests for interviews. Even the notoriously reticent Stuart Pearce and Des Walker were persuaded to come out of their shells and share their views. The bridge of mutual trust, which had collapsed in Italy, was slowly rebuilt.

The deliberate policy of diplomacy continued even when Taylor's selections were regarded as, at best, curious, or at worse illogical. His explanations were occasionally less than convincing but

opinions were debated in an adult and amicable fashion. Taylor initially asked the media only to be "fair" with him. Yet he had seen the savage vitriol that was hurled at his predecessor after the European championship four years ago and, given his journalistic background, he surely appreciated the potential consequences of failure.

Nevertheless he was evidently not prepared for the reaction to England's elimination from the European championship in June. Apart from being cruelly lampooned by one tabloid newspaper, for which Taylor has

every right to feel aggrieved, the criticism was otherwise comparatively mild. Two months later, though, Taylor is still clearly smarting. "You've got your job to do and I've got mine," he replied tersely on Wednesday when asked whether he could care to make any public comment. Subsequent calls to his hotel were not answered. On the journey home, he was scarcely any more expansive. "I treat people as they treat me," he said. "I have been attending matches like this in the past and not had this sort of attention. Why now?"

Yet the same group of journalists have regularly accompanied him abroad to see similar games and took him out to dinner in Budapest at the start of his national managerial career. The fixtures, like Wednesday's, were invariably not as significant as the opportunity to talk informally.

Since he is to declare on Tuesday his first squad of the new season for the game against Spain in Santander, the trip to Oslo was conveniently propitious. Away from sycophants and mischievous hangers-on, Taylor would have been able to relay his thoughts to the public. Instead, all that was heard was the sound of silence. Has

the burden of the job become too onerous? Is he not prepared to face even the critics he knows best? Was he merely sulking? His action is open to various interpretations. He has no contractual duty to speak but to say nothing, as might be the case again on Tuesday, is not being "fair", to use his own word, to a public he needs to reassure.

At least Anders Limpar was ready to act as Taylor's mouthpiece. Arsenal's winger, and the designer of the first of Sweden's goals in the 2-2 draw, is convinced that Norway's visit to Wembley on October 14 will be pointless. "Nobody can beat England at Wembley when it really matters," he said out-

side the Ullevaal stadium. "They have a strong squad but they don't have a chance at Wembley."

The Norwegian manager, Egil Olsen, was no less pessimistic. He expressed particular misgivings about his own side's ability to protect themselves against the direct, physical method he expects England to employ, both in six weeks' time and in the return fixture next June.

Taylor, presumably, saw the same weakness in the team he regards as the dark horses of a qualifying group that also includes Holland, Poland, Turkey and San Marino. Nobody will know until the breakdown in his public relations exercise is repaired.

New deal agreed with ITV

THE Football League and ITV negotiators have reached a new agreement for the television of live football this season. A meeting of the 70 league clubs at Walsall today will hear that most of the basic objections to the four-year, £5 million deal have been met (Peter Ball writes).

Under the agreement, ITV will pay £60,000 for each live match, regardless of which regions are showing the game. This represents a sizeable advance on the original agreement, when smaller regions such as Tyne Tees were paying about £12,000 for a match, and even LWT and Central paid only £30,000 per visit.

The other area of concern for the League was the fear of over-exposure for certain clubs. Newcastle and Sunderland in particular feared that regular visits from Tyne Tees would result in them losing money from reduced attendances on Sundays.

The ITV negotiators have agreed that a club will appear a maximum of 12 times, six home and six away. Even that, though, will seem too many to some clubs.

Brighton and Hove Albion, drawn against Manchester United in the second round of the Coca-Cola Cup, will play the first leg at home to avoid clashing with the Conservative Party conference and overstretching police resources.

Ballesteros is out of form but top of Gallacher's list

By Mitchell Platt, Golf Correspondent

Bernard Gallacher might be disappointed that Severiano Ballesteros, among others, is not playing in the Murphy's English Open, which starts at The Belfry today, but he has already penned in the out-of-form Spaniard for the Ryder Cup match against the United States next year.

Gallacher said: "I fully expect Seve to get his motivation back with the Ryder Cup points race starting at the European Masters next week, and I cannot imagine him not being in the team, unless he commands me not to select him."

"I would say, selfishly, that I would have liked some of our stars to be playing this week because it is an important event and the last one to be played at The Belfry before the Ryder Cup. But I know these great players will not want to sit back and take a chance on being picked so I expect them to try to win places in the team."

Bernard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Ian Woosnam and Ballesteros will play in the European Masters in Switzerland next week, when the official points table begins for the Ryder Cup.

Gallacher added: "I think there is a good chance of there being a lot of new faces in the team. The tour is very competitive and I would be very surprised if a Swede did not make the team next year. There are also good, young British players, with Walker Cup experience, who I am sure will challenge, along with players from Italy and Spain."

Whether or not the Ryder Cup can beat the recession remains to be seen, especially with the announcement yesterday that the cost of a season ticket will be £100, compared with £45 in 1989, when Europe and the United States tied at The Belfry. The price of an adult daily ticket will be £35, which compares with £15 four years ago and with £16 for entry to the Open Championship five weeks ago.

The price of a grandstand seat at the Ryder Cup will be an additional £20 which means that a spectator will pay £55 on any day, compared with £46 for a centre court ticket at Wimbledon on men's final day.

The Ryder Cup will be an all-ticket event, as in 1989, with the number of public tickets restricted each day to 20,000, of which 2,500 will be sold in North America. Another 7,500 tickets will be sold each day for corporate hospitality. It is anticipated that the gross revenue will be in excess of £7 million and that profits will far exceed the £750,000 from 1989.

De Vere Hotels, owners of The Belfry, have invested £500,000 in remodelling the Brabazon course. My first impression is that Dave Thomas, the architect, has done much to tighten the course, which includes a new tee at the 5th, a new green at the 9th and new bunkers at the 11th. Whether or not the reshaping of the course has enhanced viewing for the spectators is questionable. The test will come at the Ryder Cup.

Daughters to the fore

BRUCE and Karen Tennisswood held off a brave comeback by Carole Caldwell and her 13-year-old son Richard to earn a place in the semi-finals of the Burhill Family Four-somes yesterday (A Special Correspondent writes).

The Caldwelles were three down after six holes and still struggling in the wind, two holes in arrears with only four to play. But they won back the 15th and 16th and halved the next before losing on the last green, where the Tennisswoods made a superb par four to take the match.

That made two father-and-daughter combinations in the

semi-finals and both Tennisswood and Richard Stocks are determined to halt the 11-year winning run by mother-and-son partnerships.

Stocks and his daughter Joanna won by 3 and 2 against Judy Henderson and Simon Best after they had been all-square with live to play. The two other quarter-finals also ended on the 16th green with mother and son winners. Lene and Andrew Gilbert of the host club, who were the champions in 1984, beat Tony and Emma Motes, while Gillian and Jeremy Blok beat another local pair, Sue and Timothy Hubbard.

More than 30,000 cubic metres of "fill" has been used to build mounds around some greens and Thomas contends that the horseshoe shape achieved at the 17th will enable 12,000 spectators to watch that hole in comfort. I am not so sure that the mounding at the back of the 15th will work so effectively.

Meanwhile, David Gifford defends the title he won 12 months ago and Colin Montgomerie, Steven Richardson, Rodger Davis, Mark James, Anders Forsbrand and Vijay Singh should be among the contenders for a first prize of £91,660.



What line to take: the Caldwelles weigh-up a tricky putt

Ingham is caught at the death

By David Rhys Jones

PEGGY Mizon, of Haver Hill Town, who won the English Bowling Federation national four-bowl singles and pairs titles in 1988, yesterday reached the semi-finals of the 1992 English Ladies' Singles and Pairs Championships at Skegness, beating Anne Ingham, of Park Ladies, Harlepool, 21-20.

Ingham led 20-14 after 28 ends, but a glance at the scoreboard proved her undoing. "I realised then just how close I was to winning," she said. "Perhaps I tried too hard after that." The last shot certainly proved elusive, as Mizon strung together a decisive five-ends sequence, comprising three singles and two doubles.

Meg Fisher, of Warboys White Hart, the 1987 four-bowl champion, stayed on course to regain the title, beating Norma Cook, of Skegness, 21-11. Carole Quinney from Woolpack, North Cambridgeshire, lost 21-15 to Eva Hind, of Birtley.

Eric Clarke, an old campaigner from Terrington King William, qualified for the two semi-finals, skipping his clubmates to victories over Lucas CAV, North Essex, in the pairs and Enterprise, Derbyshire, in the two-bowl rink.

RFU gives warning to clubs

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has issued a warning to clubs over inducements to players after suggestions that signing-on or match fees have been offered to attract them.

A statement issued by the RFU yesterday said: "Such practices are flagrant breaches of the amateur code and if any such reports were substantiated the consequences would be very serious indeed."

The Welsh Rugby Union has secured a perimeter advertising deal with Dorna worth £1.8 million over the next three years.

Missing out

Squash rackets: A decision to limit terms to one player from the world's top eight, plus unofficial cooperation between team managers to cap first-year fees at £600 a match, mean that Rodney March, the world champion, and Jansher Khan, the world No. 1, will not play in the Pimms' Premier League this season.

Head to head

Swimming: Aleksandr Popov, the Russian Olympic 50 metres freestyle champion, will race Tom Jager, the world champion, at the Under Ben's world sprint meet at Gateshead on September 5 and 6.

ATHLETICS

100m: 1. O. Anderson (Netherlands), 10.16sec; 2. C. Heston (USA), 10.18; 3. E. Tullough (USA), 10.20; 4. M. Richardson (USA), 10.22; 5. J. Davis (USA), 10.24; 6. F. O'Connell (USA), 10.26; 7. S. Jones (USA), 10.28; 8. A. M. Williams (USA), 10.30; 9. J. Taylor (USA), 10.32; 10. R. Smith (USA), 10.34; 11. D. Jones (USA), 10.36; 12. J. Jackson (USA), 10.38; 13. M. Williams (USA), 10.40; 14. S. Jones (USA), 10.42; 15. J. Taylor (USA), 10.44; 16. R. Smith (USA), 10.46; 17. D. Jones (USA), 10.48; 18. M. Williams (USA), 10.50; 19. J. Taylor (USA), 10.52; 20. R. Smith (USA), 10.54; 21. D. Jones (USA), 10.56; 22. M. Williams (USA), 10.58; 23. J. Taylor (USA), 11.00; 24. R. Smith (USA), 11.02; 25. D. Jones (USA), 11.04; 26. M. Williams (USA), 11.06; 27. J. Taylor (USA), 11.08; 28. R. Smith (USA), 11.10; 29. D. Jones (USA), 11.12; 30. M. Williams (USA), 11.14; 31. J. Taylor (USA), 11.16; 32. R. Smith (USA), 11.18; 33. D. Jones (USA), 11.20; 34. M. Williams (USA), 11.22; 35. J. Taylor (USA), 11.24; 36. R. Smith (USA), 11.26; 37. D. Jones (USA), 11.28; 38. M. Williams (USA), 11.30; 39. J. Taylor (USA), 11.32; 40. R. Smith (USA), 11.34; 41. D. Jones (USA), 11.36; 42. M. Williams (USA), 11.38; 43. J. Taylor (USA), 11.40; 44. R. Smith (USA), 11.42; 45. D. Jones (USA), 11.44; 46. M. Williams (USA), 11.46; 47. J. Taylor (USA), 11.48; 48. R. Smith (USA), 11.50; 49. D. Jones (USA), 11.52; 50. M. Williams (USA), 11.54; 51. J. Taylor (USA), 11.56; 52. R. Smith (USA), 11.58; 53. D. Jones (USA), 12.00; 54. M. Williams (USA), 12.02; 55. J. Taylor (USA), 12.04; 56. R. Smith (USA), 12.06; 57. D. Jones (USA), 12.08; 58. M. Williams (USA), 12.10; 59. J. Taylor (USA), 12.12; 60. R. Smith (USA), 12.14; 61. D. Jones (USA), 12.16; 62. M. Williams (USA), 12.18; 63. J. Taylor (USA), 12.20; 64. R. Smith (USA), 12.22; 65. D. Jones (USA), 12.24; 66. M. Williams (USA), 12.26; 67. J. Taylor (USA), 12.28; 68. R. Smith (USA), 12.30; 69. D. Jones (USA), 12.32; 70. M. 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FRIDAY AUGUST 28 1992

Gower mistimes launch of his cutting remarks



Gower outspoken

By ALAN LEE

THE prospects of David Gower extending his England career in India this winter were done no favours yesterday when copies of his autobiography, containing candid criticism of the team management, went on sale two weeks earlier than planned.

The timing could be hugely embarrassing for Gower, whose book was completed last winter at a stage when he believed his Test match days were over. He has since recovered his England place and Graham Gooch, the captain, is believed to want him in the tour party.

When the selectors meet next week, however, Micky

Stewart, the outgoing team manager, will still have a substantial input, and he now has to weigh his views of Gower's future in the side against a personal attack in the book, which reveals the parlous state of their relationship.

Titled, simply, *Gower*, the book is not officially published until September 10, three days after the announcement of England's winter tour teams. Yesterday, however, copies were on sale in a number of London shops and at cricket grounds around the country.

Representatives of the publisher, Collins Willow, were said to be surprised by the early release, while a stronger word may be needed to

describe the feelings at *Today* newspaper, which had agreed to pay £10,000 for exclusive serialisation. They had planned their extracts for next week but, last night, were hastily revising their schedules and, probably, their budget.

Gower writes with genuine distaste of his temporary rift with Gooch, a breakdown in styles and communication on which Gooch had his say in a book published earlier this year. But his barbs are reserved for Stewart who, ironically, was yesterday given a lavish lunch at Taunton to mark the end of his six years as England manager.

At the time of writing, Gower was so convinced he had been cast adrift by Eng-

land that he referred to his Test career in the past tense. "Most disappointing of all was the way that it finished. The rug was whipped away from under me and I was left on my arse."

Gower writes of the "peculiar way in which Stewart's mind operates", adding: "He did not seem to want me back at any price. Unfortunately, the way he went about things irritated me and I was not always very good at concealing my feelings. Come to think of it, I do not believe I was, or am, the only player to think this way."

"His was a difficult job in many respects and one certainly cannot accuse him of not working hard at it. But

despite his efforts and good intentions, I still found him unconvincing and uninspiring."

The contrasting personalities and lifestyles of Gower and Stewart were never likely to gel as a captain-manager team and Gower reveals just how far apart they drifted during his brief spell in charge of the side in 1989. It later transpired that Stewart had tried to restore Mike Gatting to the captaincy, news which only increased Gower's sense of resentment.

"He probably spent all day thinking to himself, 'What's that prat doing out there now? Why isn't Galt captain?' ... We never really hit it off from the outset, largely, I think,

because our views on management differ so much. I like to treat people as individuals, while Micky would prefer a team of Subbuteo players all programmed to do things by numbers."

To illustrate his views, Gower uses anecdotes from the wretched Australian tour of two winters ago, and castigates Stewart for his handling of Devon Malcolm and Robin Smith.

"Devon had been pigeon-holed as lazy, and also didn't answer back, so he was marked down as a fair game," Gower says. "Yes his [Stewart's] limitations at bringing the best out of individuals were exposed on that tour when it came to Robin Smith

Micky couldn't sort him out and it was only when his brother, Chris, arrived in Sydney that the situation began to improve."

Gower describes Stewart's tactical input on that tour as "nothing to write home about" and sums up: "No spontaneity, no individuality and no wonder we did so badly."

Such an outspoken dissection of Stewart's methods would make it very difficult for him and Gower to work together again. Gower's consolation is that this will not be necessary. Keith Fletcher is managing the England team to India and, despite the book, indications are that Gower will still be going.

Lamb denies receiving payment

ICC locked into legal battle on ball allegations

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE game of cricket has descended depressingly into the hands of the law this week and yesterday, in London and Nottingham, the great cricket ball controversy was sustained by solicitors taking what should have been a simply resolved issue and placing it in a legal minefield.

At Lord's, the harassed secretary of the International Cricket Council (ICC) set several fresh deadlines for the statement on which so much rests, but found themselves unable to meet any of them due to a small-print technicality raised with relish by lawyers acting for the Pakistan touring team.

In Nottingham, Allan Lamb, who burst into print in Wednesday's *Daily Mirror*, alleging that the Pakistani bowlers had cheated by tampering with balls all summer, issued a statement through his solicitor denying that he, or his family, had been paid for the revelations.

Meanwhile, Lamb's England team-mate, David Gower, has gone on record with a remarkably similar accusation against the Indian touring team of two years ago. In his autobiography, now freely on

sale in shops and at cricket grounds, Gower claims, when writing of the Oval Test in that series: "The ball was not swinging as it had in our first innings and although the opposition's efforts to make it wobble around did not preclude some surreptitious scuffling-up on one side of the ball, this was quickly snuffed out by the former Fraud Squad officer, now Test match umpire, Nigel Plew."

If India were, indeed, warned about ball-doctoring, as were the England team, by umpire John Holder, on the same ground a year later, it only adds to the hypocrisy and double-standards which have epitomised this whole sorry tale.

Lamb, having been fined about £2,000 and suspended for two games by his county, Northamptonshire, was still waiting to hear if he will be summoned before a disciplinary hearing of the TCCB. He did, however, produce his own solicitor, Alan Herd, during a rainy day at Northampton, to make the curious disclaimer regarding any fee from the *Daily Mirror*.

Amid much speculation about his longer-term future, Lamb also said that he remains available for England and intends to see out the remaining two years of his contract with Northamptonshire. "I have not the slightest intention of going to any other county," he said.

Lamb may not, however, continue as the club's captain beyond this season. He says he will be discussing this with his wife at the end of the summer. The club, via their chief executive, Steve Coverdale, insist that the events of recent days will have no bearing on the captaincy but add that they expect him to play willingly under any new leader.

when a simple statement on Sunday would have settled the issue, but the longer it drags on, the greater difficulty Stephenson is having in framing the necessary explanation without inciting yet another round of litigation.

This entire tour, by Pakistan, has taken place under diplomatic duress, the Foreign Office having intervened at an early stage to place on record the political desirability of peaceful relations. Although this has proved a pious hope, there remains, it appears, anxiety to treat every situation with kid gloves. Sometimes, this only breeds further trouble.

The Pakistanis were playing at Scarborough yesterday, but under a fifth-choice captain in Shoaib Mohammad. Most of the leading players, including Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, the bowlers at the eye of the storm, were nowhere in evidence and the tour manager, Khalid Mahmood, was believed to be in London, not too far away from his solicitors.

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Peter Barnard, page 12
Kent take control, page 28



Jumping to it: Beerbaum, of Germany, urges on Rasman in the Silk Cut tankard

Lockett takes the honours

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GEOFF Lockett, riding Everest Vantage, took the Silk Cut tankard at the opening stage of the Hickstead Derby meeting yesterday, winning a three-horse barrage for the £1,250 prize.

The 12-obstacle course set for the first round proved more exacting than most riders expected and there were no clear rounds from 40 starters. This left three four-faulters to go forward, although Michael Whitaker, on Henderson Curtis, would have joined them but for a fractional time penalty.

In the jump-off, Joe Turi and Michael Bullman's stallion, Vital, who will attempt a

Derby victory on Sunday, marred a fast time when hitting two of the seven fences. Lockett and his 12-year-old, although almost ten seconds slower, failed only at the ornamental gate at halfway. This proved to be the winning round as Richard Barton, from Yorkshire, riding Foxendale, formerly partnered by Michael Whitaker, ran up 16 faults for sixth place.

Lockett, 32, at one time attached to Ted Edgar's stable, now has his own yard and the benefit of Everest sponsorship. Vantage, who did so well with the British team on the North American circuit last autumn, missed the Royal

International here and one or two other shows because of a virus. But the rider feels his horse is back to his best and hopes for a good performance in Sunday's derby, particularly if the going is firmer than that encountered yesterday.

David Bowen and Delsey led virtually throughout the one round Silk Cut Challenge judged on time over seven formidable fences. Germany's new Olympic champion, Ludger Beerbaum, was runner-up on Almon Athlete.

RESULTS: 1st, Everest Vantage (G Lockett), 4 faults, 65.5secs; 2nd, Vital (J Turi), 5 faults, 67.5secs; 3rd, Foxendale (R Barton), 16 faults, 68.5secs; 4th, Henderson Curtis (M Whitaker), 17 faults, 69.5secs; 5th, Almon Athlete (D Bowen), 18 faults, 70.5secs; 6th, Foxendale (G Lockett), 22 faults.

Sheringham joins Spurs in £2.1 m deal

By DENNIS SHONY

TEDDY Sheringham, the Nottingham Forest forward, will join Tottenham Hotspur today on a four-year contract at a fee of £2.1 million.

After five hours of talks with Sheringham and his representative, Frank McLintock, at the Tottenham training ground at Mill Hill yesterday, Terry Venables, the Tottenham chief executive, confirmed that he expected the transfer to go through by today's noon deadline in time for Sheringham, 26, to make his debut for his new club at Portman Road on Sunday in the televised match against Ipswich Town.

Sheringham completed the formalities of a medical examination at Mill Hill and Venables said last night: "It is all OK at our end and I don't see any problems. It is just odds and ends to sort out."

Sheringham, a long-time Tottenham supporter, since Glenn Hoddle was his boyhood hero, joined Forest from Millwall last summer for £1.5 million and scored 22 goals. Brian Clough, the Forest manager, decided that Tottenham's initial offer of £2 million was not enough. When

Venables increased that to £2.1 million, Clough allowed him to speak to the player but then decided the deal had to be held up until he signed a replacement.

Sheringham, who played one game for the England Under-21 side, said: "It has been a long couple of weeks."

Meanwhile, Paul Gascoigne's reunion with Tottenham looks likely to be delayed for a second time. Tottenham had planned to play Lazio in Rome on September 23 as part of the £5.5 million deal that took the player to Italy, but they are now scheduled to face Brentford at White Hart Lane in the Coca-Cola Cup second round, first leg on that night.

The Lazio match was originally arranged for August 17 but was called off because Gascoigne was not ready for his debut.

Tony Agans, Notts County's record signing, was last night put on the transfer list following his public act of dissent over being substituted in Tuesday's game with Watford.

League's TV deal, page 29

Games trips let down by trains

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE British Olympic Association has received about 20 letters of complaint from supporters of the team in Barcelona, whose trips were spoiled by unsatisfactory accommodation and travel difficulties.

A spokeswoman yesterday said that Dick Palmer, the general secretary, would be seeing and answering the letters on his return from holiday. The arrangements for the team had been "impeccable", she said.

More than 6,000 Britons went on package deals organised by Sportsworld, the association's official agency. Mike Norris, the chairman and managing director, said that although there had been "observations" about the trips, he had received about 50 letters thanking the company for organising the packages, which cost from £495 for three nights to £2,495 for 21 nights.

He said: "This was a huge programme to undertake. We had a staff of more than 140 in Spain and they were run off their feet. What has been

encouraging has been the large number of supporters, who are already making inquiries about Atlanta."

The main problem at the Games was the shortage of hotels in Barcelona, forcing travel agents to find accommodation sometimes more than 60 miles away.

Norris said: "It was impossible to get close to Barcelona and the transportation was not thought out. In the eight months before the Games, we had assurances, in writing, that transport would be provided after the final events."

However, trains were not run up to Lam, as had originally been agreed. Therefore, Sportsworld had to hire up to 60 buses a day to take clients to the city, some of whom paid £18 each way.

Nick Thornely and Tony Bryan, of the Modern Pentathlon Association, said they were so dissatisfied with their small apartments, costing £1,000 each a week, that they moved out and rented a villa for less.

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THE TIMES

Drivers faced with big pay cuts for next season

FROM NORMAN HOWELL
IN SPA, BELGIUM

GERHARD Berger's move to Ferrari for, as he happily admitted yesterday, "a nice sum of money" has highlighted the real reason why the most important drivers in Formula One are finding it hard to negotiate the kind of contracts that they have been used to.

The team owners are fed up with paying the extraordinary amounts of money that drivers have managed to earn in the past. One team official has admitted that his budget for drivers last year was \$31 million (about £16.3 million). The drivers treat such figures jokingly, claiming they are

wildly exaggerated. But these sums are at odds with the global economic climate. If further evidence was needed that Formula One is not recession-proof, the need for a pre-qualifying session for the Belgian grand prix here was cancelled yesterday when the struggling Brabham team failed to arrive for scrutineering. The British team has been short of money all season and hopes to make an announcement about the future today.

Berger's move from McLaren will reward the Austrian financially, but that is the exception rather than the rule for 1993. In addition, there are contractual restrictions imposed by drivers which tie negotiations further.

Alain Prost, with financial support from Renault and Elf, has secured a drive with Williams for next season. He has an exclusion clause in his contract which prevents Ayrton Senna from driving in the same team.

Senna has been trying hard for a seat in a Williams. The Williams' response has been to claim impotency. But the real reason appears to be that Mansell also has exclusion clauses in his contract. Senna has called Williams' bluff, announcing that he would drive for free. This has embarrassed the team somewhat.

Prost has been talking with McLaren, trying to ensure

himself a competitive drive should Senna manage to persuade Williams.

Mansell has had to face the same problem that Niki Lauda had in 1985 when, after winning the title the year before, he had an option of earning half the amount of money he had earned the previous year, or else. In the end he took the money.

This is now what some Formula One observers are suggesting that Mansell will have to do, even though he has been offered 30 per cent less than the £9 million he earned this year.

Mansell, Patrese, Prost, Senna, Alesi and Berger are the only drivers who will be paid substantially next year.

The others will get comparatively little, or may have to pay for their drives. This year's going rate was \$1 million, but the recession is biting so deep that that figure will probably decrease. Already two teams are squabbling for a "meagre" all-car livery sponsorship of \$1.8 million.

The truth is that except for the big four — McLaren, Ferrari, Benetton and Williams — the other teams are in deep financial trouble. Some like Ligier, which is state-aided, and Lotus, will also survive. But it seems at least four teams will not make the starting grid next year.

Many in Formula One are puzzled by those drivers who fail to understand that the

good times are over. Berger has, like others, planes and boats to service but no one is blaming him for taking the last bolt hole for millionaire drivers.

Senna and Mansell have been told by their present employers that the kind of money they seek is not available. The mood in the teams, and particularly at McLaren, is one of wait and see.

While Mansell was at home during the Williams' test session at Monza last week, Damon Hill, the test driver, lapped a 1.5-sec quicker than the McLaren driven by Senna and Berger. Has anyone enquired as to how much Graham Hill's son would want for a leading driver?



MODERN TIMES p4
Latin soap:
Brazil's
president
faces disgrace



LIFE & TIMES

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MOTORING p6

Ray Clancy
tests the
Knight, a
Siberian bike



OPENING LINES: The last of five first chapters from Booker prize contenders

The long journey of Mary Ward

1952

The Two-Minute Silence

On February 15th 1952 at two o'clock in the afternoon, the nation fell silent for two minutes in honour of the dead King. It was the day of his burial.

Traffic halted. Telephones did not ring. Along the radio airwaves came only hushed white noise. In the street markets, the selling of nylons paused. In the Ritz, the serving of luncheon was temporarily suspended. The waiters stood to attention with napkins folded over their arms.

To some, caught on a stationary bus, at a loom gone suddenly still, or at a brass band rehearsal momentarily soundless, the silence was heavy with eternity. Many people wept and they wept not merely for the King but for themselves and for England: for the long, ghastly passing of time.

On the Suffolk farms, a light wet snow began to fall like salt.

The Ward family stood in a field close together. Sonny Ward had not known — because the minute hand had fallen off his watch — at what precise moment to begin the silence. His wife, Estelle, hadn't wanted them to stand round like this out in the grey cold. She'd suggested they stay indoors with a fire to cheer them and the wireless to tell them what to do, but Sonny had said no, they should be out under the sky, to give their prayers an easier route upwards. He said the people of England owed it to the wretched King to speak out for him so that at least he wouldn't stammer in Heaven.

So there they were, gathered round in a potato field: Sonny and Estelle, their daughter, Mary, and their little son, Tim. Patience, Sonny thought they looked, patient and poor. And the suspicion that his family's silence was not properly synchronised with that of the nation as a whole annoyed Sonny for a long time afterwards. He'd asked his neighbour, Ernie Loomis, to tell him when to begin it, but Loomis had forgotten. Sonny had wondered whether there wouldn't be some sign — a piece of sky writing or a siren from Lowestoft — to give him the order, but none came, so when the hour hand of his watch covered the two, he put down his hoe and said: "Right. We'll have the silence now."

They began it.

The salt snow fell on their shoulders. It was a silence within a silence already there, but nobody except Mary knew that its memory would last a lifetime.

Mary Ward was six years old. She had small feet and hands and a flat, round face that reminded her mother of a sunflower. Her straight brown hair was held back from her forehead by a tortoiseshell slide. She wore round glasses to correct her faulty vision. The arms of these spectacles pinched the backs of her ears. On the day of the silence she was wearing a tweed coat too short for her, purple mittens, wellingtons and a woollen head scarf patterned with windmills and blue Dutchmen. Her father, glancing at her blinking vacancy in the sleet, thought her a sad sight.

She had been told to think about King George and pray for him. All she could remember of the King was his head, cut off at the neck on the twopenny stump, so she started to pray for the stamp, but these prayers got dull and flew away and she turned her head this way and that, wondering if she wasn't going to see, at the edge of her hopeless vision, her pet guinea-fowl, Marguerite, pecking her dainty way over the ploughed earth.

Estelle, that very morning, had inadvertently sewn a tunk of her thick black hair to some parachute silk with her sewing machine. She had screamed when she saw what she'd done. It was grotesque. It was like a crime against herself. And though now, in the silence, Estelle made herself be quiet, she could still hear her voice screaming somewhere far away. Her head was bowed, but she saw Sonny look up, first at Mary and then at her. And so instead of seeing the dead King lying smart in his naval uniform, she saw herself as she was at that precise moment, big in the far landscape, beautiful in spite of her hacked hair, a mystery, a woman falling and falling through time and the fall endless and icy. She put her palms together, seeking calm.

"At bedtime," she whispered, "I shall do that new recipe for flapjacks." She believed her whispering was soundless, but it was not. Estelle's mind often had difficulty distinguishing between thoughts and words said aloud.

Sonny banged his worn flat cap against his thigh. He began to



cough. "Shut up, Estelle!" he said through the cough. "Or else we'll have to start the silence again."

Estelle put her hands against her lips and closed her eyes. When Sonny's cough subsided, he looked down at Tim, Tim, his treasure, Timmy, his boy. The child had sat down on a furrow and was trying to unlace his little boots. Sonny watched as one boot was tugged off, pulling with it a grey sock and revealing Timmy's foot. To Sonny, the soft foot looked boneless. Tim stuck it into the mud, throwing the boot away like a toy.

"Tim!" hissed Mary. "Don't be bad!"

"Shut up, girl!" said Sonny. "I can't hear any silence at all!" said Estelle.

"Begin it again," ordered Sonny.

So Mary thought, how many minutes is it going to be? Will it get dark with us still standing here?

And then the idea of them waiting there in the field, the snow little by little settling on them and whitening them over, gave Mary a strange feeling of exaltation, as if something were about to happen to her that had never happened to anybody in the history of Suffolk or the world. She tried another prayer for the King, but the words blew away like paper. She wiped the sleet from her glasses with the back of her mitted hand. She stared at her family, took them in, one, two, three of them, quiet at last but not as still as they were meant to be, not still like the plumed men guarding the King's coffin, not still like bulrushes in a lake. And then, hearing the familiar screech of her guinea-fowl coming from near the farmhouse, she thought, I have some news for you, Marguerite, I have a secret to tell you, dear, and this is it: I am not a girl. I'm a boy.

This was how and when it began, the long journey of Mary Ward. It began in an unsynchronised silence the duration of which no one could determine, for just as Sonny hadn't known when to begin it, so he couldn't tell when to end it. He just let his family stand out there in the sleet, waiting, and the waiting felt like a long time.

The Beautiful Baby Contest

In a silver frame on the kitchen mantelpiece Estelle kept a photograph of her mother. She had been a piano teacher. The photograph showed her as she'd been in 1935, a year before her sudden death in a glider. She had belonged to the Women's League of Health and Beauty and this was how she remained in Estelle's mind — healthy, with her hair wavy and gleaming, beautiful with a gentle smile. "Giders, you know," Estelle had once told Mary in the whispery

voice she used when she talked about her mother, "are also, in fact, very beautiful things." And it was suggested to Mary, even after she began wearing her glasses, that she had some of Grandma Livia's looks. "I think," Estelle would murmur, "that you will grow up to be quite like her."

Mary was fond of the photograph of her grandmother. She looked quiet and peaceful and Mary was fairly sure she hadn't said thoughts out loud. And when she thought about her death in the glider, she didn't imagine it crashing into a wood or plummeting down onto a village; she dreamed of it just drifting away into a white sky, at first a speck, white on white, then merging into the sky, dissolving and gone. But she had never been able to imagine herself growing up to be like Grandma Livia. She knew she would not become

and no word, printed or otherwise, came out of Dublin in answer to Irene's letters. She was a practical woman. She had an ample smile and a plump body and a heart of mud. For a long time, she dreamed of the Irish printer but her dreams never showed. All that showed was her devotion to Pearl.

When Estelle came with the threepenny coupon, Irene was feeding Pearl. Her white breasts were larger than the baby's head. They could have nourished a tribe. Pearl's little life was lived in a sweet, milky oblivion.

Estelle sat down with Irene and put the entry ticket on the kitchen table. "The unknown," she said, "is always likely to be better."

Irene filled out the coupon, in the careful handwriting she'd perfected to try to win the printer's devotion: Entrant: Pearl Simmonds, Born April the 22nd, 1951. While she did this, Estelle took Pearl on her lap and looked at her, trying to imagine herself as a judge of Swaithey's Most Beautiful Baby.

Pearl's hair was as pale as lemonade. Her eyes were large and blue and liquid. Her mouth was fine like Irene's, with the same sweetness to it. "You must win, Cherub," Estelle instructed Pearl, "our hopes are on you."

Sonny fixed to go to the fête. He had no money to spare on trifles, no time to waste on fancy dress of any kind.

Estelle went in the pony cart with Mary and Tim. It was a hot day, a record for May, the wireless said. The lanes were snowy with Damsel's Lace. Mary wore a new dress made from a remnant and hand-smocked by Estelle. In the pony cart she began to detect the feel of the smocking against her chest and kept clawing at it.

They stopped at Irene's cottage. Pearl was sleeping in a wicker basket, wrapped in her white christening shawl. They laid the baskets on some sacks that smelled of barley. After a bit, Pearl began to snore. Mary had never heard anyone snore except her father, let alone a baby.

"Why is she?" Mary asked Irene. "Oh," said Irene, "she's always been a snorer, right from the off."

Mary knelt down in the cart and looked at Pearl. The snoring entranced her so, it took her mind off the smocking.

The Beautiful Baby Contest was to be held in a large green tent, ex-army. The mothers would line up on hard chairs and hold their babies aloft as the judges passed. From 36 entrants, five would be selected for a second round. There would be one winner and four consolation prizes. All the way there in the cart, Estelle thought about the word "consolation" and how she didn't like it at all. Things which promise to console never did any such thing.

The afternoon grew hotter and hotter, as if all of June and July were being crammed into this

single day. At the tombola Estelle won a chocolate cake which began to melt, so she told Mary and Tim to eat it. There was no breeze to make the home-made bunting flutter.

Towards two o'clock, Irene took Pearl to the shade of the chestnuts to give her a drink of rosehip syrup and to change her nappy. Mary asked to go with her. The heat and the smocking had made her chest itch so much she had scratched it raw and now little circles of blood were visible among the silky stitches. She wanted to show Irene these blood beads. Being with Irene was, for Mary, like being inside some kind of shelter that you'd made yourself. It was quiet. Nobody shouted.

Irene examined the blood on the smocking. She undid Mary's dress and bathed the scratches with the damp rag she carried for cleaning up Pearl.

"There's hours of work in smocking, Mary," Irene said. "I know," said Mary.

They said nothing more. Irene fastened the dress again, kneeling by Mary on the cool grass. She held her shoulders and looked at her. Mary's glasses were dirty and misted up, her thin hair lay damp round her head like a cap. Irene understood that she was refusing to cry. "Right," she said, "now we have to get Pearl ready to be beautiful."

She handed Mary a clean square of white towelling and Mary laid it carefully on the grass. She smoothed it down before she folded it. Irene took off Pearl's wet nappy and laid Pearl on the clean folded square. She took out of her bag a tin of talcum and powdered Pearl's bottom until the shiny flesh was velvety and dry. Mary watched. There was something about Pearl that mesmerised her. It was as if Pearl were a lantern slide and Mary sitting on a chair in the dark. Mary took off her glasses. Without them, it seemed to her that there were two Pearls, or almost two, lying in the chestnut shade, and Mary heard herself say a thought aloud, like her mother did. "If there were two," she said to Irene, "then there would be one for you and one for me."

"Two what, Mary?" But Mary stopped. She attached her glasses to her ears. "Oh," she said, "I don't know what I meant. I expect I was thinking about the cake Mother won, because you didn't eat any."

"It's her," said Irene, fastening the safety pin of Pearl's nappy. "It's going to be sweltering in that tent."

The mothers crowded in. There were far more mothers than chairs, so some had to stand, faint from the buzzing afternoon and the weight of the babies. The judges' opening remarks could hardly be heard above the crying. Lady Elliot from Swaithey Hall, next in her Jacquard scarf, said she had never seen such a crowd of pretty tots. She said: "Now I and my fellow judges are going to pass among you and on our second passing we will give out rosettes to the final five."

There was laughter at the idea of

the rosettes. The babies were hushed by this sudden ripple of noise. Estelle, with Mary and Tim, stood by one of the tent flaps, praying for a breeze and for the unknown to arrive in Irene's lap. Mary had her eyes closed. She felt a sudden sorrowful fury. She didn't want there to be a contest after all.

The judges barely looked at Pearl. They walked on with just a glance and the only thing that came to Irene waiting patiently on her chair was a waft of French perfume as Lady Elliot passed.

The competition was won by a Mrs Nora Flynn. The unknown became a trug and trowel, and Mrs Nora Flynn laid her baby, Sally Mahonia, in the trug, like a prize cabbage.

On the way home in the cart, Irene seemed as content as if the

day had never been. Timmy was silent, pale from an afternoon like a dream, tugged here and there and seeing nothing but shimmer. Estelle said bitterly that a trug and trowel could not be classified as "unknown" and she drove the pony at a slow, disappointed pace.

Mary said: "I didn't clap when that Sally Mahonia won. I didn't clap at all." And then, tired out from scratching her chest and eating cake and waiting Pearl to be recognised as the Most Beautiful Baby in Swaithey, she fell asleep in Irene's lap.

Pearl, unvisited by any thoughts, slept near her on the barley sacks, softly snoring.

© Sacred Country is published by Sinclair-Stevenson on September 7 (£14.95).



Rose Tremain's *Sacred Country* opens with a six-year-old girl realising she is a boy...

beautiful or join the Women's League, whatever. Women's League might be. And after the day of the two-minute silence, she knew she would not even be a woman. She didn't tell her mother this and naturally she didn't tell her father because since the age of three she had told him nothing at all. She didn't even tell Miss McKee, her teacher. She decided it was a secret. She just whispered it once to Marguerite and Marguerite opened her beak and screeched.

Some warm weather came. In May, the community of Swaithey held its annual fête in a field outside the village, well shaded by a line of chestnut trees. These fêtes always had as their main attraction a competition of some sort: Best Flower Arrangement, Child's Most Original Fancy Dress, Largest Vegetable, Most Obedient Dog, Most Talented Waiter and Quick-stepper. Prizes were generous: a dozen bottles of stout, a year's subscription to *Radio Fun* or *Fix*, a sack of coal. This year there was to be a competition to find Swaithey's Most Beautiful Baby. Entry coupons were threepence, the prize unknown.

Estelle's faulty imagination was tantalised by the idea of an unknown prize. The word "unknown" seemed to promise something of value: a visit to the Tower of London, a Jacquard scarf, a meeting with Mr Churchill. She had no baby to enter yet she refused to let this precious unknown elude her altogether. She bought an entry coupon and took it to her friend, Irene Simmonds.

Irene lived alone with her illegitimate baby, Pearl. The father had been Irish and worked "in the print" in Dublin. "He tasted of the dye," Irene had told Estelle, but the taste quickly faded and was gone

doing it in the pouring rain, even in rehearsal. He had every note

enced by Vaughan Williams's

director, Ian Souter, comes to the fore in *Backbeat*, about the

you see how?

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Something funny about the garden

London Galleries: Flowers have been photographed in many remarkable ways, as Richard Cork finds at the Serpentine

Nothing could be more riddled with potential pitfalls than photographing flowers. In colour, the assembled blooms can easily look as garish and banal as the illustrations in a seed catalogue. Escaping into black-and-white can be just as hazardous, for monochrome can easily drain flowers of all their sensuous appeal.

No wonder that the earliest exhibits in the Serpentine Gallery's enjoyable survey of Flora Photographica seem to approach their subjects gingerly. At a time when lithography was held to be the finest way of reproducing flowers, the technical problems besieging cameras and chemical processes made photography an unattractive option. When Fox Talbot took a picture of his daughter Elia around 1845, the flowers in her hand were too smudged to be identified with ease. So 19th-century photographers resorted to other methods of giving their floral images enough visual interest.

Sometimes the results were comically desperate. One anonymous practitioner posed a group of swayed and praying women round an extravagantly large bloom, trying to invest it with the status of a deity. Another unknown photographer decapitated his female sitter and placed a flower where her face should be. She points a Leonardo-like finger at the other side of the picture, where a pole rising from a plant-pot is crowned by the woman's missing head.

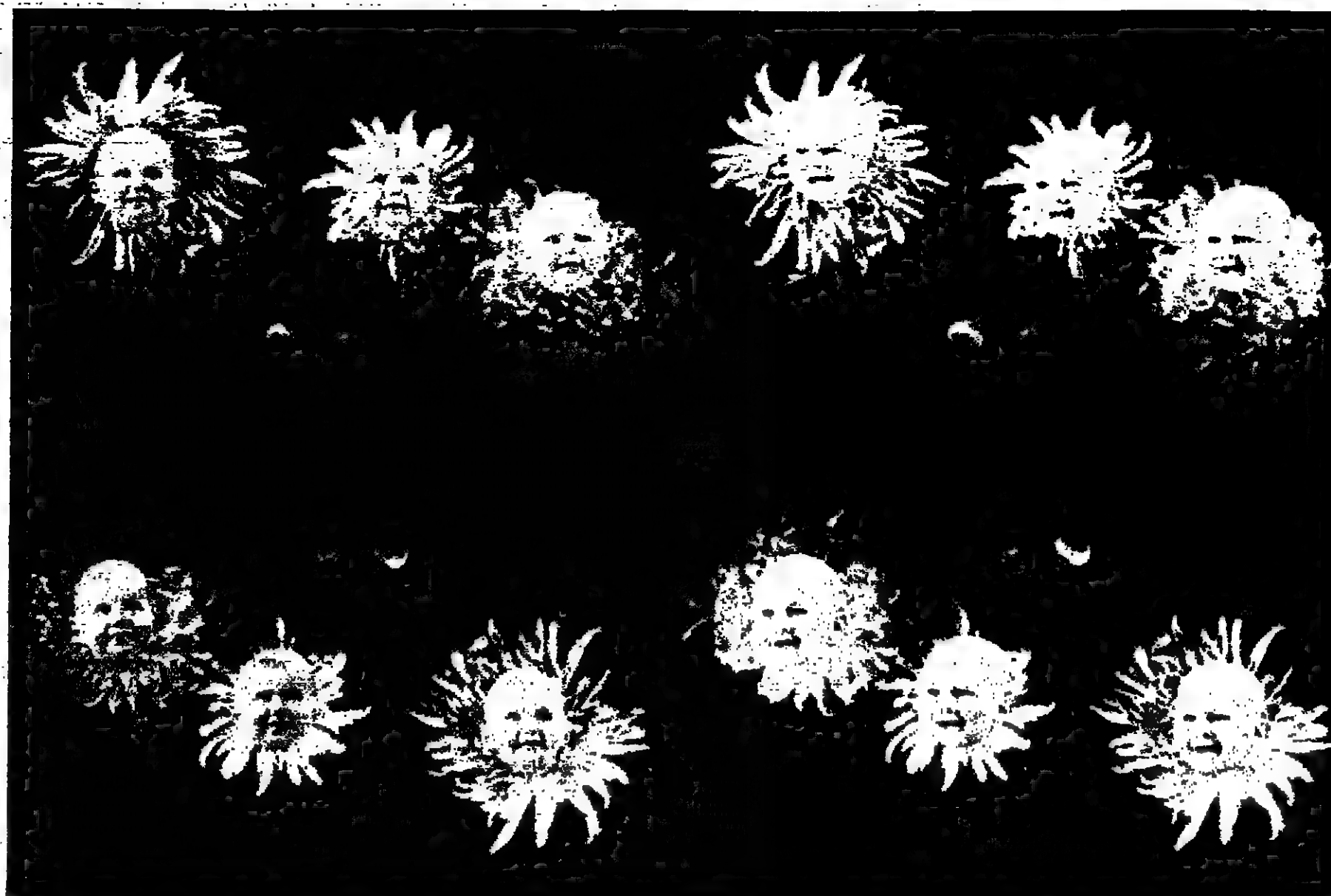
Such tactics may be weirdly prophetic of Surrealism, but they smack of insecurity as well. Even the redoubtable Roger Fenton, who photographed elaborate still-lives with apparent Victorian confidence in the 1860s, almost smothered his flowers with a cornucopia of swollen plums, peaches and cucumbers. The Alinari brothers in Italy resorted to quotations from Renaissance paintings. The lily in their bur-

nished print is held, self-consciously, between the finger and thumb of a female hand — like the angel in a quattrocento altarpiece of the Annunciation. Julia Margaret Cameron made the connection between flowers and purity still more overt in her fervent image of *The White Roses*, where Kate and Elizabeth Keown embody the virtues of spiritual love with the aid of some suitably virginal blooms.

After all this strenuous manipulation, P.H. Emerson's belief in photographing subjects in their natural surroundings seems refreshing. His direct, unassuming study of waterlilies, reproduced in the great *Life and Landscape on the Norfolk Broads*, quietly celebrates their fusion with a wateryland setting. Taken in 1886, several years before Monet began creating his far more artful water-lily garden at Giverny, Emerson's image gains from its utter lack of pretension.

This straightforwardness could not last. Impatient with remaining at a respectful distance from their subjects, some photographers began to scrutinise them with unprecedented intimacy in the early years of the present century. Taking full advantage of improvements in lens-power, the tenacious Karl Blossfeldt closed in on his chosen flora and revealed their intricacies in thousands of spectacular enlargements. His *Tellima Grandiflora* spills out of its container like an unstoppable triffid.

The like-minded Ernst Fuhrmann produced even more arresting studies. Isolating the seed pod of a poppy against a midnight background, he highlights its resemblance to a human sperm wriggling towards an unseen goal. The way was now open for other photographers to vie with the discoveries of abstract painting. Fascinated by Blossfeldt's innovations, Imogen Cunningham came equally close to her subjects. But her widely-admired *Magnolia, Blis-*



Babes in full bloom: John Stezaker's untitled photocollage, taken from his bizarre *Underworld* series of ingeniously deconstructed flower photographs

som, made in 1925, also has inescapable connections with the paintings of her fellow American, Georgia O'Keeffe. Both women were quite uninhibited about seeking out the most erotic aspects of the flowers they explored. The petals in Cunningham's picture seem to part as she pushes her lens forward, penetrating the secret centre of the magnolia.

Sexual undertones are detectable, too, in Konrad Cramer's *Rose Abstraction* a decade later. But as his title indicates, Cramer is more interested in the undulating pattern created by intricately enfolded petals. They suggest a cratered landscape on the moon's surface rather than the delicacy of a rose. The most engaging section of the

show proves, though, that people and flowers cannot remain separate for long. When Kertész finds a simple pot of blooms in the foreground of Mondrian's Paris home, they somehow come to stand in for the absent artist. Time and again, flowers manage to make their own comments on the people they accompany. In August Sanders' austere study of two sisters from Westerville, the identical roses on their dresses look as unloved as the girls themselves. The flower leaning out of the glass at Otto Dix's elbow seems impelled by the same thrusting, diagonal energy which the sister exudes as she stares at Hugo Ehrhart's camera.

When Cecil Beaton juxtaposed Marlene Dietrich with an outrageously ornate floral arrangement in 1937, he ensured that she was

even more orchidaceous than the blooms beside her. As for Salvador Dalí, rising from the sea with the familiar mock-insanity in his eyes, he looks just as inconsequential as the two tiny flowers perched on his preposterous moustache.

The vulnerability discovered by so many photographers in Marilyn Monroe was intensified when she clasped two ouzo paper flowers on her bare breasts and smiled for Bert Stern in 1962. Fragility turns to mortality when Robert Mapplethorpe shows a hand lying, as if dead, with an orchid. Just as Dutch 17th-century artists used flowers to symbolise vanity and transience, so Mapplethorpe seems to prophesy his own early end.

Duane Michals explores a related mood in his four-part *A Dream of Flowers*, where a handsome,

sleeping man gradually becomes covered with petals. They begin by garlanding and end up threatening to asphyxiate him. And John Stezaker's bizarre photocollage from his *Underworld* series presents a mutant cluster of babies' faces emerging from sickly yellow blooms. Although they smile wholeheartedly for the moment, their expressions might easily change to fear when they realise the helplessness of their predicament.

The result is more unsettling, in its deceptively fanciful way, than the crude iconoclasm of Mike & Doug Starn. By tearing, bending, scratching and staining their print of a rose, and then pinning the battered image inside a wooden frame, they presumably aim at assailing the conventions of photographic representation. But their

strategies are merely hectoring. Mapplethorpe had no need to resort to literal aggression in the work assembled here.

In *Calla Lily with Shadow*, his subject seems to dance with balletic grace before the encircling gloom. And a close-up view of the same flower, taken only months before his death, finds a rigorously composed serenity in the billowing, blue-tinted forms. We are tempted to see it as final testament, acknowledging the certainty of extinction. But the phallic form lodged near the lily's centre possesses the resilience which enabled him, even near the end, to retain the glacial poise of his finest achievements.

Flora Photographica is at the Serpentine Gallery (071-402 6075) until September 20, sponsored by BT. Daily, 10am-6pm, admission free.

Theatre Review: The new Ayckbourn musical in Scarborough

Beauty in suburbia

Cross Alan Ayckbourn, the bard of contemporary suburbia, with the Brothers Grimm or Hans Christian Andersen, and what is the result? It might be Rapunzel letting her hair down the Telecom Tower for lovelorn commuters from Surrey to climb up. It could be the Giant, pounding along the M25 in pursuit of Jack the upwardly mobile salesman in his Sierra. In fact, in *Dreams from a Summer House* (Stephen Joseph Theatre) it is Beauty who crashes a party in a mock-Tudor house in Leatherhead, and the Beast who carries off the most obnoxious member of the host's family, presumably to a castle in the mountains of Esher.

The musical play that Ayckbourn has written with John Patison eventually becomes a muddle, and a pretty sentimental muddle at that, but it contains some delightful incongruities. Picture the bewilderment of Christie (Christine Cox), a fussy, driven housewife, when she is confronted with a fairy-tale princess who can converse only in song. Imagine the consternation of her and everybody else when a vast, hairy troll suddenly pads across the lawn, throws her nasty daughter over his shoulder, and bounds back into the rose-bushes.

Ayckbourn has certainly had his elfin, whimsical moods in recent times. In both *Woman in Mind* and *Invisible Friends* he brought dream-figures up out of his characters' unconsciousnesses and paraded them about the stage. But like all his whimsical fantasies, these turned out to have their destructive side. The difference here is that both Beauty and her Beast vastly improve the people who summon them up — and, hardly more explicable, themselves end up embodying the virtues of sexual equality and loving acceptance of one another's limitations. What has happened to the Ayckbourn who has spent his career wryly grieving over the unending war between Adam and Eve?

Actually, that honest if cynical chap is often visible in the evening's early stages. The main characters are Christie's daughter Amanda (Janie Dee), who has returned in a year from her second honeymoon, and the young woman's first husband, Robert Dale Rapley, an artist who as borrowed the summer-



Janie Dee as Amanda: after the honeymoon, the rage

house to work on a book of fairy-stories. It is his bitter denunciation of women that brings Beauty (Jan Hartley) dancing prettily out of the mist, and his ex-wife's conversational hatred that conjures up the Beast (Anthony Verrill). So far, so good.

What follows has its funny moments, but also its inscrutable ones. Not only must the audience cope with inconsistencies in the dramatic conventions Ayckbourn uses, they must buy some less-than-logical emotional developments. It is perfectly credible that the dreadful Amanda should turn the tables on a Beast who keeps her fettered and makes her sing idiot ditties about trilling linnets — but why, when she has wrecked the poor monster's ego by forcing him to fill his castle with do-it-yourself shelving, should she come home a new woman, brimming with affection for her feeble husband? Why should Robert, his misogyny

confirmed by Beauty's somewhat unimpeachable return to the Beast, suddenly succumb to the charms of Amanda's kid sister, whom he has spent the play assiduously belittling? Oh well, that's fairy-tales for you. Maybe that's musicals for you, too. Some of the lyrics certainly confirm the old saw, that things too embarrassing to say should be sung. True, there is some pastiche in Patison's music. I caught touches of Gilbert and Sullivan, Rodgers and Hammerstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber in the songs, and even Mozart in the recitative out of which they come melodiously bubbling. But if irony is intended at the evening's end, neither Ayckbourn's script nor his production has caught it.

Would you believe "Man has no right or duty to enslave or fetter beauty", thrillingly sung by an awesomely sincere ogre? No, nor did I; not from Alan Ayckbourn.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

TELEVISION REVIEW

Babble of the sexes

The series that nobody in the saloon bar is talking about ended last night. The reason nobody is talking about it is that the saloon bar is mostly populated by men and men discuss football, lacking the emotional maturity to talk about sex. Only women discuss sex. Is that true? Search me.

Men Talk (Channel 4) ended with women talking. Women always get the last word, bo ho. The men from the all-male programmes that constituted the rest of the series were also there, and what a sorry bunch they are. One, having been "a bit of a scruff" on the previous programme, was told there would be "ladies" present last night so he put on a tie. Fair bowled 'em over, I bet. Surprisingly, the women refrained from hanging him with it.

Are most men like this? Am I like this? Asked to demolish the women with an unassailable argument for male supremacy, a man called Ken summoned an analogy. A tad hasty, Ken, in my view. The analogy was dancing. In dancing, Ken said, the men lead, always have done. So there you are. Er...thank you. Leaving aside the fact that in current modes of dancing the men hardly need to be in the

same room, I do not myself see three million pages of Germaine Greer being knocked over by the mechanics of the slow foxtrot. According to a particularly attractive young woman — sorry, that just slipped out — men need to treat women as equals and then everything would be all right. This woman (lovely smile) also thought that male honesty would help. A man who was not called Ken and had not even bothered to put on a tie said he had tried equality but it did not work. He had tried honesty, too, but that did not work either. Honestly, equality... prototype qualities, really, not the sort you would want to use more than once.

He used to have a girlfriend, he said, with whom he had honestly been in love. But when he told her that, quite honestly, he planned to go on sleeping with other women for sex, well, she walked out on him. Honestly, what can you do with a woman like that? I expect if she had told him the same thing, he would have given her his blessing and the telephone numbers of his 12 best male friends. Men: so much more mature, don't you think?

Men Talk has been a dialogue of the deaf throughout and never more so than last night. Most of the time the men were trying to be assertive ("hold on...let me finish...just a minute") and the women were trying to defend themselves against male myths.

The men in the series have tended to extrapolate a philosophy out of a single experience. Viz: a man meets a girl and takes her home for some "financial advice". Halfway through, she says "I love you". Conclusion: all women are romantic fools. Men Talk has been a babble. To the extent that last night made any sense at all, the women sounded the more sensible, if not more enlightened. Of course women are more sensible, but then, they have much more time to think. Men are too busy trying to remember the steps. Born to lead, isn't that right, Ken?

PETER BARNARD

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL

Howells receives his due

For the time being at least, the Three Choirs Festival continues unperturbed in its exploration of the highways and byways of the English repertoire. In Tuesday's concert at Gloucester, Gerald Finzi's setting of Wordsworth's ode *Immortality*, eloquently sung by the tenor Maldwyn Davies and a robust Festival Chorus under the direction of Roy Massey, was preceded by two neglected pieces of Herbert Howells, the centenary of whose birth falls this year.

Sine nomine was written by the 30-year-old Howells for the 1922 festival, and combines elements of Vaughan Williams and Holst with a rapidly developing individual voice. A Kent Yeoman's *Woolf Song* reveals an unfamiliar side of Howells: treating a humorous, secular text in a curiously high-flown style.

Donald Hunt's vigorous conducting, and Brian Rayner Cook's sturdy assumption of the self-important, Yeoman,



Howells: an idiosyncratic voice in English music

generated a good deal of enthusiasm for this off-beat piece. Ann Mackay's poorly supported tone adversely affected her breath control and intonation in places.

The Howells centenary was also marked by the unveiling of a new memorial window in the Lady Chapel of Gloucester

Cathedral, commissioned from Caroline Swash and incorporating fragments of Howells's scores. John Rutter's anthem, *Hymn to the Creator of Light*, celebrating the dedication of the window at Even-song, similarly drew on pre-existing material: the chorale *Schmücke dich*, which made a hushed but wonderfully effective entry at the words "Light, who does my soul enlighten". The afternoon concert, given by choristers from the three cathedral choirs of Worcester, Gloucester and Hereford, alternated choral music (more Howells and Finzi, as well as a new commission) with organ music by Stanford and Leighton excellently played by the assistant at Gloucester, Mark Lee. The commission, *A Raleigh Triptych* by Philip Cannon, relied excessively on tedious declamation unvarying in taste, though occasionally it coalesced into strikingly imaginative gestures.

BARRY MILLINGTON

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

● A FINE ENTERTAINMENT: Celebrating 250 years of Handel's *Messiah*, this show includes the original handwritten score of *Messiah* and all sorts of Handel memorabilia, including his will, private correspondence and other manuscripts. There are also portraits of Handel and his circle, and rarities such as the first terracotta model of Roubilliac's Handel monument in Westminster Abbey. Pallant House Gallery, 9 North Pallant, Chichester (0243 774557) Tue-Sat 10am-5.30pm, to Sept. 19.

● GRAHAM ARNOLD: The Brotherhood of Ruralists was a group of young fogies turning away from abstraction and the urban stridency of Pop Art to create consoling images of an idyllic countryside and soft-core sex in pastel shades. Now one of the founders, Graham Arnold, is 60, and is celebrated with this retrospective. The Tabernacle Cultural Centre, Heol Penrallt, Machynlleth, Powys (0654 703355) Daily 10am-5pm, until Sunday.

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An awful lot of Borgias in Brazil

Kate Muir reports on the bitter family feud behind the downfall of the glamorous president of Brazil

Like the best Latin soap operas, the one surrounding Brazil's first family has all the essential ingredients: brother turning on brother; a playboy president; an interfering mother; an estranged and over-dressed wife; accusations of madness; fast cars; large mansions; and, of course, allegations of wholesale corruption.

Unfortunately for scandal-enraptured President Fernando Collor de Mello, his country's appetite for this particular hot-blooded drama is now beginning to wane. This week, Sênhor Collor was charged with using his office to "obtain improper profits and benefits" worth an estimated \$6.5 million (£3.3 million). Impeachment proceedings began against the president, and soap-loving Brazilians were treated to the real thing — a five-hour television reading of the 200-page Congressional report on his complex finances.

The situation has been made more embarrassing by the fact that the 43-year-old president was turned in by his own brother. In May, Pedro Collor, aged 39, accused his elder brother of corrupt business dealings in an interview in the Brazilian news magazine *Veja*. The resultant feud meant the family was dubbed "The Borgias from Brazil".

The president was linked to his election campaign treasurer, businessman Paulo Cesar Farias, who was accused of racketeering and fraud. Through Sênhor Farias, millions of dollars allegedly were funnelled into bank accounts controlled by Sênhor Collor's first and second wives, his mother and his friends. The Collor lakeside mansion in Brasília was redecorated, the gardens remodelled, expensive furniture arrived and a new Fiat Elba executive car appeared.

The Collor brothers come from one of Brazil's most privileged families, heirs to a fortune created by their senator father, who built up a media empire of newspapers and a local television station, part of Brazil's national Globo network.

Both young men were playboys-about-Brasília in the 1970s and rivals from early on. Fernando forsook his early career as the editor of one of his father's newspapers to move to local politics. Pedro stayed with the Collor business, taking over as the director when his father died. He was naturally annoyed when the new president deregulated the media and allowed Sênhor Farias to plan the opening of a competing newspaper.

But that was nothing to Pedro's fury when he discovered Fernando had been telephoning his wife, the glamorous Maria Tereza. There was a spate of newspaper articles

about the alleged amorous adventures of the president, as well as plenty of speculation about his second marriage to beautiful, 25-year-old Rosane. The president answered the corruption and infidelity allegations by saying his brother was mad. Pedro voluntarily took a sanity test to prove him wrong. That avenue exhausted, Fernando then sued Pedro for libel.

The family feud which turned into a national outrage had Brazilians marching in their thousands wearing "Collor for ex-president" and "Don't steal — Fernando hates competition" T-shirts. Torn between fascination with the continuing drama of the Collor family, and demands for the president to resign, the country has compromised for the moment with a full airing of the Collors' dirty laundry.

Sênhor Collor was elected president in the country's first free elections in 1989 with a 3 per cent majority after nearly three decades of dictatorship. He declared himself "the hunter of the maharajahs" — the high-salaried, corrupt civil servants who were, he claimed, bleeding the country dry. He vowed to help "the shirtless ones and the barefooted".

The handsome, rich, articulate Fernando Collor and his pretty wife were compared with John and Jackie Kennedy. Aided by his family links to the Globo television empire, the young millionaire undertook a publicity tour of the country by Lear jet, and portrayed himself successfully as the voice of the people.

His populist stance belied his youth growing up in a mansion in one of Rio's best neighbourhoods, and his education at exclusive Catholic schools. The family was shaken slightly when his father, Arnão de Mello, shot another politician on the floor of the Senate and claimed immunity. The Collors then moved to the new capital, Brasília, where Fernando, according to an interview given by Paul Otavio, a friend from those days, gained a reputation as "a ladies man, a happy fellow, a partier, crazy about sports cars, very vain". The city yacht club voted Sênhor Collor one of Brasília's "ten most elegant men".

The advocate for the shirtless has a large wardrobe. He once modelled for Pierre Cardin at a charity fashion show, and orders an average of 15 suits from his personal tailor each year. He has a fondness for gold silk.

Sênhor Collor divorced his first wife, Lilibeth Montenegro de Carvalho, an heiress and the mother of his two sons, in 1981. In 1984 he married Rosane Mahta, a college



A first family's public face: but President Fernando Collor de Mello and his wife have only recently become reconciled and the family is accused of wholesale corruption

graduate and former debutante, and the daughter of one of the most influential families in the Collors' home state of Alagoas. Soon after, he became governor of the state.

Things seemed to be going well at the start of his presidential term. He restored glamour to the leadership by piloting Air Force fighters, leaping from helicopters dressed in combat gear, skydiving and riding jet waterfalls. So dapper was he that his mother, Leda, led a campaign to stop him risking his life.

President Bush held a dinner in honour of the Collors at the White House, and referred to Brazil's new president as "Indiana Jones" because he piloted his own plane part of the way to Washington. Back home, monthly hyperinflation went from 50 to 20 per cent, and the public seemed to be supporting their new leader through an asset freeze and ex-

trême economic austerity. But being an inexperienced politician, he chose an inexperienced cabinet, and having changed political parties four times until he invented his own, he had difficulty getting support from Congress.

Then, last year, came an early indication that all was not well in the House of Collor. The First Lady had awarded contracts worth nearly \$500,000 to three of her relatives, in her new role as the head of the state charity for the poor, the Brazilian Assistance Legion. The charity also held a \$12,000 champagne banquet at her instigation. When she took the job she said: "I want to be respected for being myself, not just for being the president's wife or for being elegant and well-dressed."

Sênhor Collor, angered by the tarnishing effect of his wife's behaviour, spurned her in public. In a televised speech made this time last

year he drew attention to the fact that he was not wearing his wedding ring by rubbing his naked ring finger. Sênhora Collor broke down in tears at a public function in a cathedral when her husband failed to turn up. Newspapers pointed out the couple had spent Valentine's day apart.

As the scandal spread, the couple made up publicly, either to save face, or perhaps because Rosane's father had said threateningly: "In our family the women are either married or widowed."

But the reconciliation came too late. Prying into the Collors' personal affairs had become of national interest, and the spotlight moved to the president.

Without Pedro Collor's leaks, the allegations of corruption might have taken longer to surface. The president's mother tried to keep the

lid on the trouble for as long as possible and removed Pedro as the director of the family company in which she is the majority stockholder, claiming he was under stress. It was then that he submitted to a sanity test.

Thereafter, it was open house on the Collor presidency, with new allegations surfacing week by week. What really upset the Brazilians was the revelation that while their savings had been frozen in the 1990 austerity measures, causing losses of up to 80 per cent, it appeared that Sênhor Farias and the president's secretary made massive cash withdrawals just before the bank freeze was announced.

The Congress report charges that Sênhor Farias obtained millions of dollars from business executives in exchange for promises of government contracts or favoured treatment, and used part of the money to cover Sênhor Collor's personal

expenses. Investigators found cheques for millions of dollars in a bank account in the name of the president's secretary, which was for the exclusive use of Sênhor Collor and his friends.

Now, as the Brazilian Bar Association prepares the case against Sênhor Collor, his only chance of political survival is to persuade Congress to vote against the impeachment motion, expected next week. He recently released \$400 million for a low-cost housing and sanitation programme and granted radio and television licenses to politicians. These actions have been interpreted as an attempt to shore up the vote.

"Expect lots of action and plenty of emotion during my five years of government," Sênhor Collor said at the start of his term. Brazilians are predicting he was right about the action, but wrong about lasting the five years.

Carnival is back on the streets of Notting Hill this weekend — with the stamp of official approval

If you believe the hype, the whole of Britain has been warming up this week in anticipation of getting hot, hot, hot at the weekend. Yes, carnival fever is with us again and we are about to be bombarded with images of jolly hordes dancing in the streets with policemen in their shirtsleeves.

Like Christmas, carnival is a festival that began as a small but legendary occurrence and has become something of a commercial and cultural jamboree. And, like Christmas, the Notting Hill carnival in London is an event which we are told — by our friends and by the media — we must get excited about.

Every year there is a different debate surrounding the bank holiday festivities. Is there going to be a riot? Should public bodies (such as the Arts Council and the local council) continue to fund the event? Is there going to be a riot? Is the event badly organised? Is there too heavy a police presence at carnival? Are there enough police officers at carnival? Is there going to be a riot?

Every year, pre-carnival publicity depends upon the whims of the moment. Scaremongering has been the commonest tactic in the carnival's 27-year history. In one year, the carnival organisers said that there was a National Front conspiracy to bomb West London during the festivities.

Until the late 1980s journalists — often crime correspondents — would cover the carnival without so much as a mention of a steel band. Last year the image of the notorious Notting Hill Carnival underwent something of a revolution. The event that we were once told was an annual convention for pot smoking, muggers and rioters, became an event that was fit for family consumption. It was acknowledged as Europe's largest outdoor arts festival. Six hundred thousand attended the first day of carnival in 1991 and there were 54 arrests. At the 1991 FA Cup Final attendance was 80,000 and there were 68 arrests.

Even the crime minister

Yes, it's almost bogling time



Hot, hot, hot: every year there is a different controversy surrounding the carnival

now acknowledges the carnival as an important arts event. "Notting Hill Carnival," he says in a message to this year's carnival, "presents us with an opportunity to be justly proud of the cultural diversity which enriches our national heritage. The carnival is a splendid opportunity for those attending to see some of the best creative and artistic Afro-Caribbean work available in Britain today."

James Gillespie, a musician who has lived in London all his life, had never been to the carnival until last year, when under press and peer pressure he decided to find out what all the fuss was about.

"Like most of the people

who had never been before," he says, "I thought it was just some sort of hyped up street party. I was surprised at what a massive event it actually is. I was under the impression that it was a sort of tense event but the atmosphere was incredible. Just for a couple of days a corner of London is a friendly and relaxed place where people are actually nice to each other."

To surmise that Londoners are transformed into friendly people for the weekend may be a little optimistic. Many of the revelers are tourists and British day-trippers from outside the capital. According to the Notting Hill Carnival Enterprise Committee Ltd (NCEL),

of the 2.2 million visitors expected over this weekend, one in five will be overseas visitors and a similar number will be from outside London.

The Notting Hill carnival can no longer simply be described as a street party. It is now the largest carnival in the world outside Rio and costs £240,000 to organise excluding the estimated £500,000 spent by masqueraders, musicians and DJs that take part in the processions and entertainers.

But for some the marketing of carnival as a mainstream tourist attraction is not welcome. Rhonda Laslett organised the first carnival in

1965 and continued until 1970. She says now: "I'm not really a fan of what it is nowadays. It's big and commercial. It doesn't seem to have the warmth that it used to have."

There are thousands, however, who attend the carnival every year without fail. Ron Schillingford, the deputy editor of the black newspaper *The Voice*, says: "I always make sure I'm in London for carnival. It's one of the most important dates in the year. It's a national occasion that began as a simple party in the street in the 1960s. But apart from that everyone has a good time. You'll never see so many people — both black and white — losing their inhibitions and going out and enjoying themselves."

The chairwoman of the NCEL, Claire Holder, a barrister, says: "Carnival means different things to different people. It's hard to say why people come. Everyone thinks of carnival in a different way. There is no typical carnival-goer, apart from the fact that they are people who want to have fun. If you see someone enjoying themselves at a party, you always want to join in."

I have lived in London for three years and have never had the urge to juggle my way around Portobello blowing a whistle. I have always considered the Notting Hill carnival to be a Londoner's knees up but the facts and figures have proved me wrong. This year I will have no excuse for proudly announcing my intention to spend the bank holiday in my home town of Manchester.

Although Ms Holder says the carnival-goer cannot be categorised, retaining my carnival no-goer tag would be certain social suicide. When non-attendees stand accused of being even grayer than the prime minister, then the pressure to party this weekend is greater than it has ever been. So you may catch a glimpse of me on the final item of the news on Monday performing the latest Jamaican dance craze — bogling with a bobby.

LESLEY THOMAS

A duchess yorked from the start

The Duchess of York has, plainly, been a bit of a fool. To get hammered by the tabloids may count as misfortune, but to get the broadsheets and the broadcasters joining in the jeering looks very little like carelessness. The evidence is plain that nobody loves "Fergie"; perhaps we should try standing back and getting last week's photo-scandal into perspective, and asking why.

It can't be just her insensitivity. Otherwise the Duke of Edinburgh would be in hot water more often: from early on to his later masterstrokes such as "silly eyes", he has always shown superb form in this direction. Nor can it be the plight of her children, so heartbreakingly depicted by newspapers whose own staff tend to have distinctly iffy family structures for while Beatrice and Eugenie may currently be a bit baffled by all this canoodling, they were at least there. With their mother, by the pool. When the Prince of Wales was small he lost touch with his mother so completely that all he could do was shake hands stiffly on her return to the airport, but nobody exorcises the Queen for that. The Duchess is expensive but that is not an inevitable source of unpopularity either. The Princess of Wales's jewels and clothes and cars are admired more than resented.

No: there is something else at work, and has been ever since Sarah Ferguson first bounced on to the scene in 1986. The fact is that worried, pallid, conventional men of a certain age control most public media, and such men simply cannot abide extrovert, super-healthy, noisy women. They want to hide from them, whether in the snooker room or the Garrick Club. When they think a big, tough, hearty woman is coming round the corner, these men cringe.

"Fergie" made them cringe from the start. Even before the royal wedding, one court reporter said to me, "My great-

Is there more to the dislike of 'Fergie' than we care to admit?

est fear is that she'll come up and thump me on the chest in that chunky way she has. I might never walk again." She larked around, her red hair flying, overrunning her schedule to chat with the crowds. In Northern Ireland she said, "Andrew's told me to shut up three times already — he

She did not look like a protectable victim princess, but more like the principal boy in a panto, slapping her thigh

thinks I'm getting too excited". In 1986 the consensus was that the new duchess would have to slim down, calm down, refrain from devilish high spirits and adopt the starveling fashion-plate passivity of our then heroine, Diana. Two years on, the cuttings show that she hadn't, and that the tight-buttocked gentlemen of the press were getting more and more upset. "Loud", "rackety" and "brassy" they said, with a *Spectatorish* shudder. Craig Brown referred to "The Duke and Duchess of Yob" and an anonymous but clearly conspiratorial profile-writer in the *Observer* rebuked her "raunchy" sense of humour and claimed, no doubt

from close personal observation, that "The Queen has had occasion to remind the Duchess of certain aspects of *l'es-majesté*, such as the fact that you don't wave when someone wolf-whistles at you". You got the sense that a Mae West, a Bet Lynch, a Ruby Wax, had been let loose in the hushed precincts of a monastery.

Her very health was found offensive. She sick-ed while pregnant and enjoyed it, and to the visible chagrin of the critical chorus she came to no harm. She answered back when heckled. She made no attempt to be a silent, blushing waif, to glance up sweetly through her eyelashes.

She flew helicopters and wore frightful baseball caps. She dressed with theatrical panache. She did not look like a sweet protectable victim princess, but more like the principal boy in a panto, slapping her thigh. She grabbed at life in a way which women are still not supposed to do. She offended against images we still cherish and try to project on to royalty: the quiet maternal Madonna, Patient Griselda, the Lady of Shalott observing the world modestly through a mirror. She was none of these. Indeed, she was probably the closest the modern royal family has got to a Henry VIII.

And yes, she went over the top. Financially, socially, and in terms of common prudence. The business of the Budgie money and the free holidays alienated most supporters, and John Bryan wiped out the rest. But if we are honest, that is not the whole story. Look back through the records, remember conversations since 1986 and you will find that the streak of hatred and alarm predates all those things. The duchess didn't have to do anything shocking in order to shock. She just had to be herself.

LIBBY PURVES

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Chemistry, the couch, or both?

Is mental illness all in the mind — or could there be a physiological cause for virtually every psychological problem and a "magic bullet" medicine capable of curing it?

As "mind" drugs become increasingly sophisticated, it is tempting to think that one day the mentally ill might no longer require intensive therapy but could maintain a stable state on medication, much as a diabetic does on insulin. The 5-HT (5-hydroxytryptamine), or serotonin family of drugs, are effective anti-depressants made possible by recent advances in understanding of how the brain's neurotransmitters work. The drugs may eventually become the treatment of choice for other anti-social behaviour, such as addictions, aggression and even anorexia. The state-of-the-art anti-psychotic drug clozapine has produced significant effects on schizophrenics — stilling the destructive inner voices so that they can listen to those coaxing them to return to "normal" life.

Hamid Ghodse, professor of psychiatry at St George's Medical School, University of London, and the co-editor of the World Health Organisation's guide to "improving prescribing practices" for psychoactive drugs, envisages that in the next few years "we could have drugs to treat anxiety disorders, obsessive compulsive neuroses and addictive behaviours, as well as certain psychiatric problems associated with old age. We are going through an exciting era in research and development, producing more specifically targeted drugs with fewer side effects."

Coming to regard the brain as a biochemical computer, and mental illness as a malfunction that the correct chemical messengers can rectify, could take away much of the social stigma that has been attached to diseases of the mind. "We are discovering new drugs to target different mental illnesses all the time, and I think that will reduce the stigma," says Robert Priest, professor of psychiatry at St Mary's Hospital medical school, in London, who is chairing the Defeat Depression campaign for the Royal College of Psychiatrists in association with the Royal College of General Practitioners.

New drugs are fuelling a debate on mental illness, says Victoria McKee

"People are afraid of being regarded as weak-minded or gutless if they have a mental illness. The more you can show that there's no more to be ashamed of in having depression than in having appendicitis, the better it will be," Professor Priest says. "We estimate that there are about three million people a year suffering from depression in Britain and that about half never seek treatment."

During the course of a year, 25

You either treat people as pieces of machinery or as human beings

per cent of the population will suffer from psychological symptoms of some sort, according to the mental health charity MIND. These include stress and anxiety symptoms, a feeling of inability to cope, eating too much and drinking too much. But only 12 per cent of people will be treated with drugs and 1.7 per cent will be referred for specialist psychiatric treatment. Over a 20-year period, MIND says, nearly three quarters of women and more than half of men visit their doctor with a mental health problem.

Liz Sayce, MIND's policy director, says: "Our view is that there's too much emphasis on the physical and not enough on getting to the roots of the problem. Drugs are already more easily available on the NHS than psychotherapy, although a survey we did last year showed that people were generally happier with psychological treatments. We think that some of the

new drugs need to be monitored carefully."

The charity's information sheet on clozapine takes a very cautious line, highlighting the drug's "chequered history", its "3 per cent risk of developing serious blood disorders which have led to deaths" and the possibility of "rebound psychosis" on stopping the drug. The information sheet also gives a warning that the possible side effects of the anti-depressants 5-HT or SSRI (Serotonin Specific Reuptake Inhibitors) include "nausea, headache, insomnia, anxiety, dizziness and weakness".

"There's no anti-depressant that doesn't have some side-effects — all you can do is draw up a list of the pros and cons," Professor Priest says. He believes that the best results come from a judicious combination of drugs and psychotherapy. "You might find 20 per cent of my patients getting better with just psychological treatment but 80 per cent when you add drugs," he says. "To my mind the best analogy is with pneumonia. You can get pneumonia from lying in a ditch all night but after you've got it it's no good just being taken out of the ditch — you need antibiotics. Seriously depressed people need anti-depressants to help them get better, even if their depression was precipitated by environmental factors."

However, Joseph Berke, a psychiatrist and psychotherapist, would never prescribe drugs in such cases. Dr Berke claims significant results with schizophrenics after just a few weeks of psychoanalytic psychotherapy. "If it's a first time breakdown I can usually have them back to normal within a few weeks — as long as it takes most of these drugs to start working."

"If someone comes to me who is already on medication I will try to wean him or her off as soon as possible because, without doing that, you can't get a baseline emotional state for that person. They act as chemical straitjackets which prevent people from behaving improperly and put them on ice."

Professor Ghodse vehemently disagrees with Dr Berke's anti-drug stance. "I have been advocating the rational use of psychoactive drugs for many years and believe that their use is perhaps the most



NICK MALAND.

important part of the treatment of mental illnesses. And I believe that the contribution of drugs to the de-stigmatisation of mental illness is very important." He emphasises, however, that "while I do believe mental illness is biochemically based, that does not mean that psychological support is not equally important."

Robert Hinshelwood, a consultant psychiatrist at St Bernard's Hospital, Ealing, west London, sums up the confusion that the new generation of mind drugs are creating among health professionals. "I'm sure it is entirely possible to think of the brain in a chemical form as an objective, biochemical piece of machinery — but it is

equally possible to think of it as a person struggling with experiences. The 'mind/brain question' goes back to Descartes and has never been satisfactorily answered, leaving psychiatry poised in a philosophical gulf. One simply has to take a point of view — either to treat people as pieces of machinery or as human beings. I prefer to treat them as human beings."

Dr Hinshelwood says that he seldom prescribes drugs in his private practice, but that many of his NHS patients are on drugs. Whether this is because drugs — at least the old ones — were considered cheaper than psychotherapy or because, as Dr Hinshelwood suggests, "the NHS treats more

seriously disturbed people, so drugs get used more" is difficult to discern. Certainly, as Professor Ghodse notes, the new generation of "mind" drugs cost "many times" as much as their precursors and are not prescribed to preclude the need for counselling.

"There is a shortage of staff able to give psychological treatment," says Fiona Caldwell, Dean of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, who supports MIND's determination that those suffering from mental problems and those who treat them should be better informed about all the options available. "In our *The Mental Health of the Nation* paper, which is going to be published shortly, one of the things

we'll be saying is that we think there must be a full range of treatments available within the NHS — including the complete complement of psychotherapies. At the moment the availability of that type of treatment is very patchy."

Ultimately, the experts agree — whether it takes a chemical messenger or a human one to reach it, mental illness can be rooted out. But hereditary factors (the child of a schizophrenic is ten times more likely to succumb to schizophrenia) coupled with the dramatic results the new drugs can achieve make it tempting to consider that someday it may be eradicated like smallpox — and leave fewer scars.

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What can parents do about children who will not eat their vegetables?

If children ever get a charter of their own, one of the clauses is sure to be that they are not forced to eat green vegetables. Since food scientists do not agree that cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and the rest have any significant impact on children's health, why do some grown-ups go on so?

"The idea that greens are good for you is a load of cobblers," says Vincent Marks, professor of clinical biochemistry at Surrey University. "I don't know why we should force spinach down children's throats, there is not a jot of evidence to say it does them any good. It is not high in iron content and most of the other vegetables children won't eat, cucumber, celery and so on, are mostly fibre and water. They have no energy. Children ought to eat what they enjoy."

Videos of Food Dudes — six-year-olds eating dishes traditionally rejected by children — were launched at the British Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting in Southampton this week. Part of a long-term study by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) into the nation's diet, the films, by psychologists at the University of Wales, Bangor, tell of a General Junk and his Junk Junta, who are baddies whose mission it is to stop children eating healthy food.

Fergus Lowe, professor of psychology at the university, says that when he showed the videos to children they changed their eating habits "overnight".

Sue Gatenby, a dietician and nutrition scientist at the Institute of Food Research, Reading, was impressed by the speed of change noted in Professor Lowe's preliminary results. "Evidence I have read shows children to be neophobic," she says. "There is also evidence to show that children's choice of high-calorie food may be nature's way of protecting her young, going back to the days when food was in short supply and the body adapted to conserve as much energy as possible."

Captain Cabbage, jovial hero of the videos, will soon be shown to several hundred children aged between two and ten to see if he can exercise a permanent influence on the nation's eating habits and health.

Other government initiatives in that direction, according to Professor Lowe, have had little lasting effect. Even Popeye cannot be rated a brilliant propaganda success since his macho charms obvi-

Views of the greens

GRAHAM TROTTER



Into the mouths of babes: children enjoy sweet foods

ously never managed to overcome the taste of spinach which most under-tens think is disgusting although they seem to acquire a liking for it on the way to adulthood. (There is an apocryphal story that whoever worked out the iron content of spinach all those years ago managed to get the decimal point in the wrong place.)

Although a constant diet of videos extolling the virtues of cabbage may brainwash today's youngsters, no amount of persuasion will change the fact that they have a tendency to like sweet things.

David Booth, professor of nutritional psychology at Birmingham University,

points out that a preference for sugar is innate. "The only thing wrong with sugar is that it is frequently on the teeth," he says. "The worst thing for health is our tendency to snack on tea and biscuits or soft drinks and chocolate bars. If all they want is mouth entertainment there is every reason to encourage kids to go for fruit."

Professors Marks and Booth's attitude to greens and sugar is not shared by other experts.

Michael Crawford, professor of brain chemistry and human nutrition at the Hackney and City Hospital, London, is 100 per cent be-

hind the effort to wean children away from one and towards the other. "The important role of green vegetables cannot be overstated," he says. "They are an important source of folic acid, contain beta-carotene, Vitamin C and Alpha-Linolenic, an essential fatty acid, as well as magnesium. The point about sugar is that it is a very good energy source but does not contribute nutrients, so children can take in lots of calories but do not get enough goodness for their growing bodies."

The World Health Organisation says children should eat 400g or 1lb of fruit and vegetables a day. That can include a glass of fruit juice which would account for 150g.

According to Michael Lean of Glasgow University, who is also taking part in the ESRC's nation's diet initiative, many children eat no fruit or vegetables at all.

"The technique of using videos is very innovative and such a novel approach might work," he says. "We certainly need some new way of getting people to act on the information we get across. In research for the Scottish Home and Health Department, we found that although people are well educated about what food they should eat, they don't eat it. In Scotland the children are shorter, there is more heart disease here, and in the east end of Glasgow where there is a lot of poverty the children look streaky, not as well polished as children elsewhere."

Professor Lowe's team will also try to find out whether childhood dislikes of healthy foods can be avoided altogether. Infants aged two will be fed guava and artichokes and compared with infants eating conventional diets.

But not all scientists think it is necessary to eliminate so-called unhealthy foods to such an extent. Dr David Conning, director general of the British Nutrition Foundation, says: "The last thing you want to do with children is have a row about food and if they are eating potatoes, meat, bread and drinking milk they will be getting enough essential vitamins. Vegetarian children present more of a problem but they tend to be brought up in fairly dogmatic families where they have no choice."

"There is a puritanical faction of people who claim to know what is good for the rest of us and they are determined we are going to do it whether we like it or not."

HEATHER KIRBY

King Husain's new enemy

ALTHOUGH King Husain of Jordan's great popularity in this country may have been blunted by the position he was forced to take during the Gulf war, everybody who has admired his extraordinary courage over the past 40 years will wish him well as he faces his latest adversary: a Grawitz tumour of the kidney. The tumour, now more often referred to as a renal cell carcinoma or hypernephroma, is the most common form of cancer to attack the kidney. It was first described by Paul Grawitz, professor of pathology at Greiswald University, Germany, in 1883. It affects twice as many men as women, is rare under the age of 40, and accounts for 2 per cent of all adult cancers.

The classical features of a hypernephroma are blood in the urine (haematuria), pain, and a swelling which can be felt in the upper abdomen. Suspicion is first aroused in over half of sufferers by haematuria. If the bleeding is detected early, the cancer can be diagnosed and



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

removed before it has had time to spread.

Judging from the Mayo Clinic's bulletins, a blood clot in the ureter, the tube from the kidney to the bladder, first drew King Husain's attention to his problems. The clinic initially announced that the symptoms had been due to an obstruction within the ureter and, later, that a very small tumour, well encapsulated and confined to the kidney tissue, had been found. It would seem probable that the king's colicky pain and ureteric obstruction was due to a clot or clots.

Although the three symptoms of hyper-

nephroma are well known, it is often difficult to feel a small tumour and the intensity of the pain is very variable. There are, however, other more peculiar presentations of the disease. Hypernephroma is one of the tumours which can give rise to an unexplained temperature and 20 per cent of patients with one have a constant fever of around 100 to 102°F.

Other patients with a hypernephroma consult their doctor complaining of extreme tiredness, which is in part due to anaemia, or conversely from symptoms from having a blood which is too thick, polycythaemia. A third of patients with a hypernephroma develop a raised blood pressure.

Although many cases, unlike that of King Husain, present late when the tumour has already spread to other organs, the overall five-year survival rate is 45-50 per cent, and for those in whom the cancer has apparently been confined to the kidney, as in the king's case, over 60 per cent.

A weight of evidence

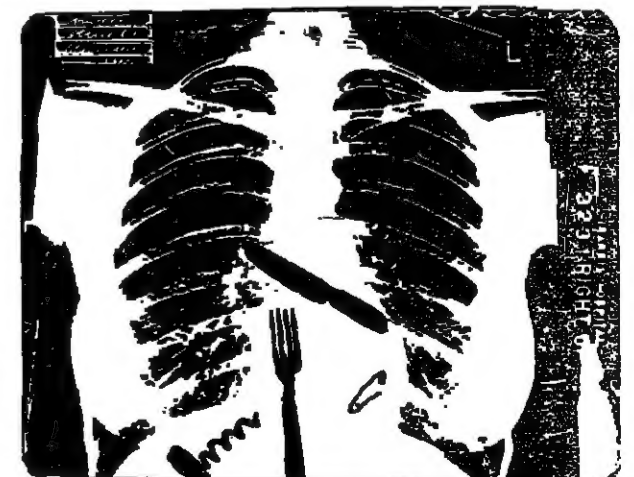
ALLISON JOHNSON is just starting a four-year sentence passed at Lincoln Crown Court for aggravated burglary having threatened with a knife the householders who had surprised him. This is unusual behaviour for Mr Johnson, who usually swallows cutlery rather than brandishes it, but on this occasion he did not attempt to conceal the evidence. In the past, however, he has ingested a wide variety of kitchen utensils in particular, and ironmongery in general: even as he left for prison his stomach contained several table-forks and the metal head of a dish-mop.

Gaining admission to hospital by swallowing objects is often a manifestation of Münchhausen's syndrome. In classical Münchhausen's syndrome patients find that by

lying — Münchhausen was a fictional teller of tall stories — they can obtain the loving care provided by a hospital, affection which is otherwise lacking in their lives.

The stories thought up by Münchhausen's patients are legion but swallowing a sharp instrument (an open safety pin is a favourite) is a very crude way of gaining attention: many patients become experts in diseases and past masters in acting out the symptoms. One woman who had been admitted to many hospitals with a carefully rehearsed story was eventually cured when she was bequeathed a kitten. The kitten gave her the attention previously provided by duped doctors and nurses and the patient was never admitted again.

Swallowing objects can also



be a form of self mutilation, often symptomatic of a psychosis rather than a neurosis. And in view of this and Mr Johnson's knife-wielding tendencies he will need careful assessment.

How speed can save war wounded

MARTIN BELL, the BBC reporter hit by shrapnel this week, was tucked up in the comfort of the Princess Grace Hospital, a few hundred yards from Harley Street, just after midnight on Wednesday, only hours after he was injured in Sarajevo.

He had already had emergency treatment from British and French military doctors in Sarajevo and Zagreb and Jerry Gilmore, formerly senior surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, was looking after him.

Mr Bell will derive the benefit of the medical expertise learnt the hard way in two major wars and kept fresh in medical minds by numerous

smaller ones, and Vietnam, since 1945, on the best way to treat casualties.

The first objective after first aid, which might well include putting up a drip, maintaining an airway and staunching bleeding, is to evacuate the casualty as quickly as possible to a specialist unit. The second is to see that complete debridement of the wound — the removal of all damaged devitalised tissue and any foreign bodies, which would form a ready centre for infection — is carried out and, later, to make certain the wound is not closed prematurely.

By this definition, all wounds are infected. This rule applies even when the piece of

penetrating shrapnel carries with it portions of Mr Bell's smart white suit rather than fragments of dirt and bacteria impregnated uniform.

In the Falklands, British casualties cleared rapidly to specialised surgical units did remarkably well, whereas the stories of the wounds suffered by the Argentinians, who after their surrender came into British care, were horrendous.

Many of these wounds had been treated by premature closure and patients developed severe infection from anaerobic organisms and subsequent gangrene, sights which one hoped had been left behind since the trench warfare of 1914-18.

director, Ian Sweeney, comes to the fore in *Backbeat*, about the

SENSITIVE IRRITATION?

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Out of the East
comes a shining
Knight of the
road, which for
Ray Clancy had
the attributes of
a *real* bike

The Knight is heavy and the handlebars are high and wide. It is a wonder why the makers bothered with the mirrors, as it was impossible to use them because of their position and the vibration from the engine. On the motorway, with the throttle open, the speedo stuttered its way upward. To 40mph, the machine rattled and then smoothed out. Cruising at 70mph was lovely. For cachet and posing value, the Soviet Knight scores 11



out of ten. It draws as many stares as the more outlandish Harleys. At a stop for petrol, four-star rather than unleaded, the cashier came out from behind his desk just to look. "Can I touch it?" he said.

The serious problems began after lunch. Outside the pub, a crowd gathered to look but I lost a lot of credibility points when it would not start. A couple of fuses had blown, so I had to trot over the road to

The Knight uses ten-amp fuses, but the shop assistant said that they are not available in the UK. I picked out a packet of eight- and 16-amps, the nearest available. The eight amps just blew again. Filed down, the larger ones worked: the engine started.

Now apprehensive, I headed out of town, but the fuses blew again. When I turned the

The engine, a copy of the BMW R80, is solid and reliable once warmed up, and a new or reconditioned BMW

However, what could topple the progress of the good Knight is raging inflation in Siberia. Prices in Britain have already had to go up this year and there are fears that the price could double because of the old Soviet Union's economic problems.

That would remove a quirky and attractive name from the growing list of popular retro-bikes.

● **Neval Motorcycles Ltd,**
Brookholme, Seaton Road,
Hornsea, Humberside HU18
1JZ. Tel: 0964 533875.

Souped-up Trooper: Isuzu's 4WD is much-refined to challenge the Land Rover market

The Trooper is bigger — 11cm longer in the long wheelbase version — and a full five-seater with a huge rear opening door, again similar to the Discovery.

I drove the V6 petrol-engined Citation model and found a vehicle packed with excellent standard equipment and an interior that cossets and comforts both driver and passengers.

The 3.2-litre was as smooth as the engines you might expect in high quality saloons and the gear change easy to find. The ride over conventional tarmac is, however,

much-market

The *Suzuki* may be very good, but at £20,000, the long wheelbase *Citation* is still very close to Land Rover prices. That could be a drawback in a market where the Japanese badge has not yet convinced buyers that British is not best.

● **Suzuki Citation: Price:** £20,198. **Engine:** 3.2-litre V6, offering 174bhp (113bhp turbo-charged diesel also available), available with five-speed manual or automatic gearbox. **Performance (manual):** 0-60mph 11.5sec; top speed 106mph; fuel economy 15.6mpg around town.

THE RAC is advising motorists to tell the police immediately if their cars are broken into or stolen, as failure to do so could affect insurance cover. The organisation reports that many insurance companies are hesitating about paying a claim which has not been reported to police. Reporting also allows police to gauge the seriousness of car crime in their areas.

likely to be better than detection, you may wish to consider a new product from Moss Security. One of the easiest ways to break into a car is to smash window glass. Moss has launched a new detector which activates the alarm when the glass is broken. The system works from a sensitive microphone which detects only high frequency sounds, such as shattering glass. Cost £9.99.

Show time

ONE of Britain's biggest classic car shows will be staged at Knebworth Park, Hertfordshire, this weekend. More

[illegible]

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